

FLORIDA'S DISTINCTIVE GAY & LESBIAN PUBLICATION

WATERMARK

AUGUST 21 - SEPT. 3, 1997

VOLUME 4.17

ADVANTAGE, BILLIE JEAN!

Tennis Legend Billie Jean King talks with Watermark about her amazing tennis career, her reluctant outing, and her buddy Elton John.

QUEER IN THE SUBURBS (PSSST... WE DON'T ALL LIVE DOWNTOWN)

GAY AOL: LAVENDER LIFE ON AMERICA'S LARGEST ON LINE SERVER



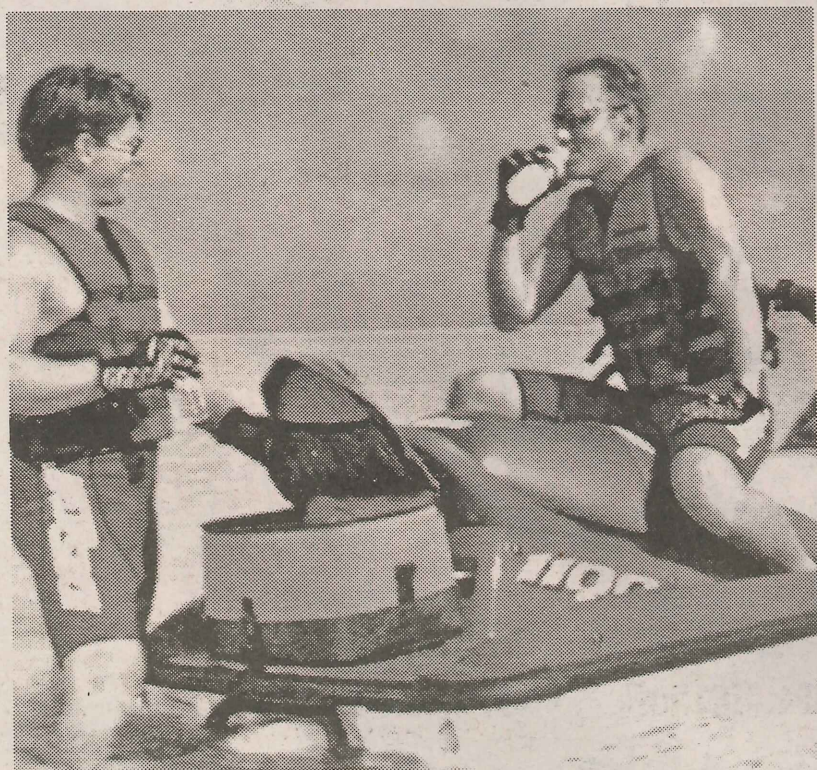
Orlando Kawasaki

We Crossed A Cruise
Ship With A Race Boat...



1997 Kawasaki Jetski

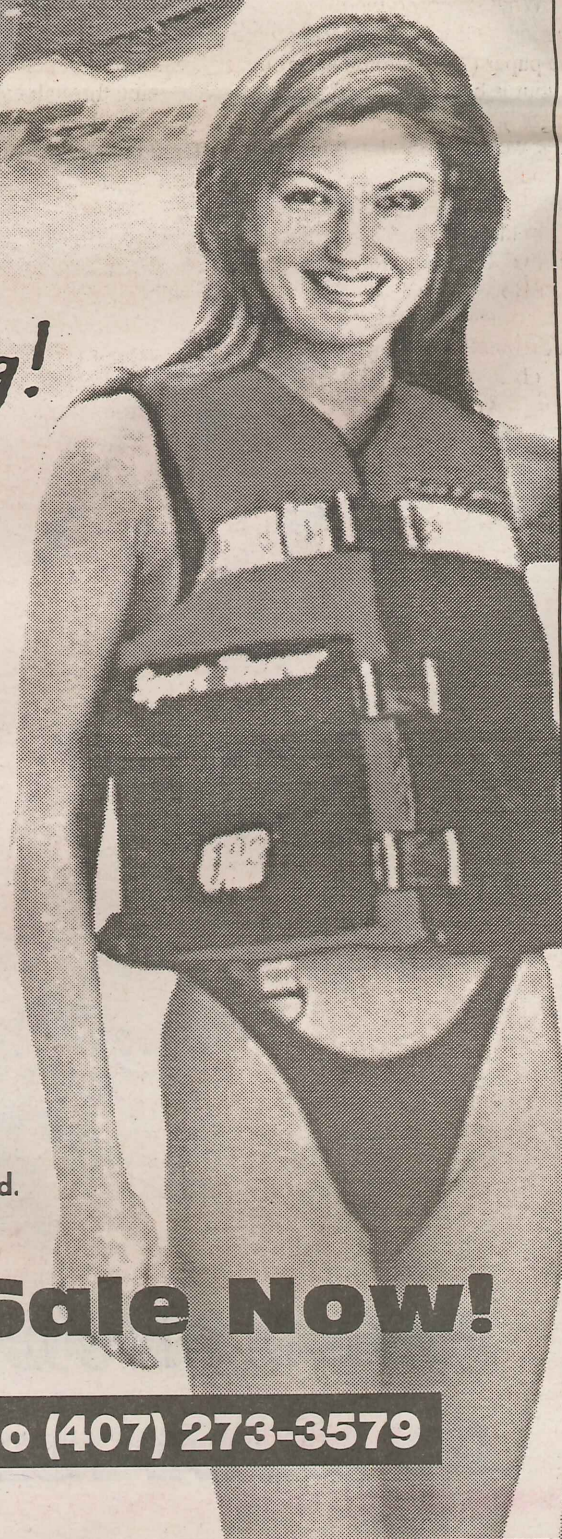
And Everybody Started Screaming!



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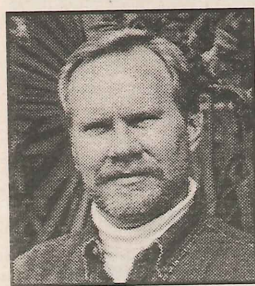


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PREVIEW



EDITOR'S DESK

by Tom Dyer

Being the editor of a gay newspaper has its perks, not the least of which is getting to meet famous people through the occasional "celebrity" interview. Here at *Watermark*, we've yanked memorable quotes from the likes of Lily Tomlin, Greg Louganis, Amanda Bearse, Harvey Fierstein, Paula Poundstone, RuPaul, Louis Anderson, and more. But it's rare to have the opportunity to visit with a cultural icon; someone whose efforts have changed the way our country sees itself.

If you grew up in the sixties and seventies, you know that Billie Jean King was everywhere. She was the undisputed Queen of Women's Tennis, grunting and groaning her way to 20 Wimbledon titles. But more significantly, she was one of the most high-profile feminists in an era focused on women's rights. She bravely insisted that women be treated equally—in tennis, in athletics, in life—and she's never backed away from her pursuit of that vision.

When she called me—"Hi, Tom. It's Billie Jean. How are 'ya?"—I was certainly in awe, but also more than a little nervous. I'd gone to the library and read page after page about this singular woman, but I still had no clear picture of the nature of her relationship to the gay community. Back in the seventies, in the first high-profile gay palimony case on record, she'd admitted to an affair with a woman. But at the time, her public pronouncements made it sound like she preferred to retreat into the safety of her heterosexual marriage. I wanted to clarify all of this, and I wasn't sure this person for whom I have so much respect would feel the same way.

What surprised me more than her easy candor was her warmth and interest in other things and people. She praised the paper ("You should be proud. It's really well done, the layout is beautiful, and I really enjoyed going through every page."), and she insisted on knowing how I'm doing. By the time we got through talking, she'd offered both advice and encouragement. My therapist expresses less interest in me than Billie Jean King did. Great lady.

In this issue, our Artful Living section offers features on two distinctly different gay cultural phenomena. KimBoo York's "Queer in the Suburbs" describes the preference of many Central Florida gays and lesbians for traditional suburban lifestyles. Apparently not all of us march to the beat of downtown drums. And in "Gay on AOL," Ken Kundis looks at our near-saturation use of America OnLine, the country's largest Internet server.

If something's happening in New York and Chicago and L.A. and Atlanta, it will soon catch on in Central Florida. In Waterfront, we look at the growing number of popular "co-gender" clubs around the country. A very positive thing, co-gender clubs are places where gay men and women co-exist and commingle happily. And, as Jack the Lad notes in his "Bar Tabs" column, there are already several such places in our Waterworld.

Finally, the aliens have landed in Ken Kundis' hilarious "Plan Q From Outer Space." But enjoy Phu and Grevlok and President Weicker and Vice President Ampersand while you can; our summer sci-fi serial wraps up next issue.

That next issue, due out on Sept. 4, will mark the third anniversary of *Watermark*. We'll celebrate our rapid growth by looking back at the "early days," and by revisiting some of our most memorable photos, columns and interviews. Hope you'll join us, for the next issue, and for many, many more years.

HOLY FACTOID, BATMAN: Tampa Bay bureau chief Todd Simmons reports he doesn't know what he was thinking about when he penned Editor's Desk for our last issue, but it wasn't the Fox TV Network. He incorrectly attributed a recurring animated skit on Fox's *Mad TV* title "The Ambiguously Gay Duo" to NBC's tepid *Saturday Night Live*. And he called it "The Ambiguously Gay Superheroes." Anyone who's seen this hilarious spoof on Batman and Robin—could that show have been more homoerotic?—knows Fox deserves credit for putting this side-splitting skit on the air. Our apologies to gay superheroes everywhere. ▽

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thru September 18. Time is running out to see the spectacular **IMPERIAL TOMBS OF CHINA** exhibit at the recently expanded Orlando Museum of Art. See rare and precious treasures from the ancient tombs of various Chinese warlords and emperors. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see a world class exhibit in your own backyard. Call (407) 539-2181.

SUN., AUGUST 24

Enzian Theatre, Gary Lambert Salon and Family Values Radio present an exclusive showing of **THE BIRDCAGE**. The event is a benefit for Gay and Lesbian Community Services, Inc. (GLCS) in honor of their tenth anniversary. The movie starts at 11 AM at Enzian. Call (407) 298-7747 for more info.

MON., AUGUST 25

The **BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR GLCS** continues, with cake available all day at The GLCS Center at 714 E. Colonial Dr. If you're into speeches and the like, those will take place at 7:30 PM. And if you haven't been to **GAYSKATE** in a while, use the birthday celebration as an excuse to return to this fun, friendly monthly event. Skating is from 9:15 to 11:30



The Tampa Frontrunners at their annual Pride 5k benefit.

PM at Semoran Skateway just off Semoran Blvd. in Casselberry.

HRTF's monthly meeting on Wed., Sept. 3, 7 PM at MC Film Festival. Call (813) 273-8769.

Clearwater

THURS., SEPT. 4

Pinellas County's most dynamic political organization is its chapter of the **HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE**, the only statewide gay and lesbian political action committee in Florida. It meets at 7 PM at the Unitarian Church at 2470 Nursery Road. Get involved with the group's lobbying work on behalf of gay and lesbian issues. And if you're in Hillsborough, come to

Tampa Bay

SATURDAYS

If you're looking for a fun, healthy hobby that's also gay oriented, show up at 9 AM at the Old Hyde Park Village fountain and hit the road with the **FRONTRUNNERS**. Competitive runners, roller bladers and walkers of all levels are welcome. The group gets together in the same spot at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays, too. Call (813) 273-8919.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING...

IT'S A GAY WORLD AFTER ALL

Two national publications recently profiled the Orlando area, and they paint a pretty gay picture. First, the most recent *Rolling Stone* featured a lengthy article on the "Orlando Sound," profiling the thriving downtown club scene. No surprise, author John Weir noticed it's pretty gay: "Orlando's a town of second marriages and transplanted executives, a mix of the godly and the gay." Meanwhile, *The Globe* published a scathing look at Disney and its employees under the headlines, "Working for the Mouse is Pure Hell," and "Rats! Mickey's Gang aren't so squeaky clean after all." The most interesting revelation? Up to 75 percent of the staff is gay! We'd like to get a hand on their research notes...

LIGHTS! CAMERA! SOMEONE CLOSE THOSE CURTAINS!

What was that huge film crew doing at the Parliament House last Thursday and Friday? No, it wasn't the latest Falcon video production. Instead it was the crew for HBO's *From the Earth to the Moon*, the huge Tom Hanks mini-series that will tell the story of NASA's early days. So why the Parliament House? Are there things we didn't know about Scott Carpenter, John Glenn, Neil Armstrong and the gang? Apparently not. The film crew wanted a hotel with that fifties/sixties "motor court" look... hence the PH. No word yet as to whether any of the regular poolside gang made it into the movies as extras.

A VOICE FOR ADOPTION

Count *The Miami Herald* among the gay community's

strongest friends in Florida media. "Denying gay people the right to be considered as adoptive parents is silly and just plain wrong," opined the Aug. 15 *Herald* in response to a recent court ruling upholding the state's ban on gay adoptions. "Florida and New Hampshire are the only two states with such prohibitions. There may be evidence that a two-parent household with an at-home mother, a

financially secure father, and a proven ability to care for

children is, statistically speaking, the best of all worlds for children. But how many are raised this way? And what of the nearly 2,000

adoptable Florida children

linguishing without a home? No one would

expect the courts to grant adoptions to people, homosexual or heterosexual, who flaunt their sexual practices in front of children. What is being sought is simply the right to be considered upon one's merits as a parent." Couldn't have said it better ourselves.

FILM FEST COMING ATTRACTIONS

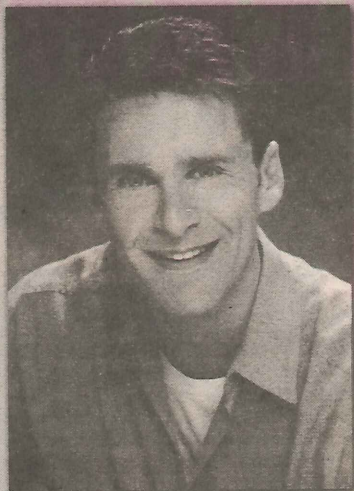
Tickets are on sale for the 8th annual Pride Film Festival in Tampa, one of the nation's largest gay and lesbian movie fests. The event kicks off on Friday, Sept. 19, at historic Tampa Theater with a double feature and runs through the 28th, offering a long list of Florida and Southeastern U.S. debuts. The festival's final day features the annual Celebration Street Party, a combination business- food-entertainment expo on downtown Tampa's Franklin Street Mall. Tickets are \$6 per film, five for \$25 or Crown Circle VIP passes for \$80. Call (813) 837-4485 or locations where advance tickets can be purchased.

(Above) The Parliament House: An architectural gem?





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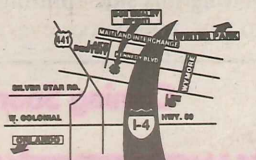
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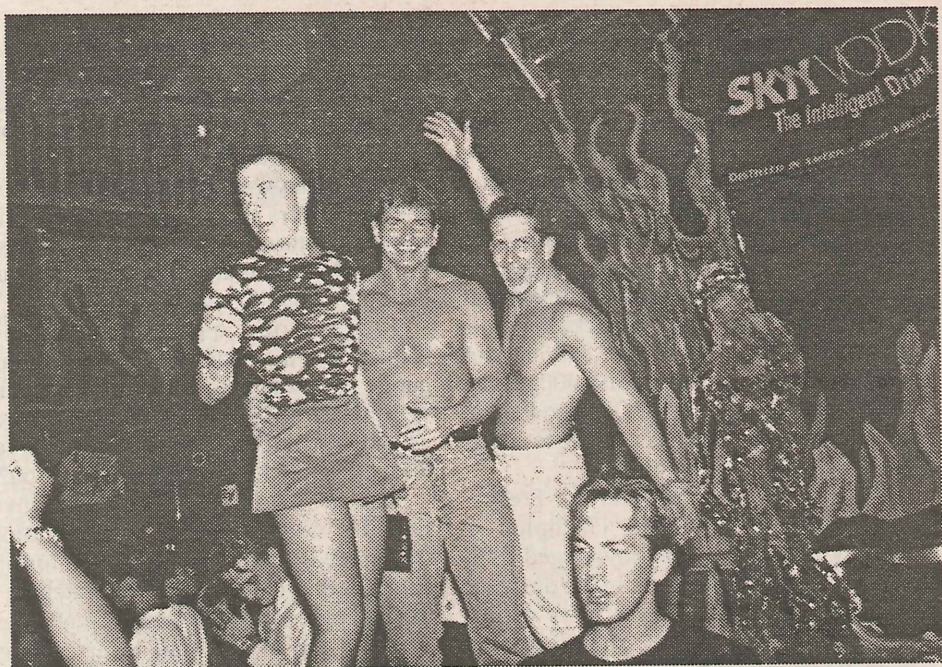
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HEADLINE NEWS



Solar owners JEFF WINEMILLER (left) and STEVE ENGERER in better days.

SOLAR TURNS BLACK HOLE, CITING FEB. RAID

TAMPA — The popular downtown dance club Solar has closed its doors for good.

The nightspot which lasted a little more than a year during which it was generally Tampa's hottest gay nighspot—never fully recovered from a Valentine's Day drug raid this year. State law enforcement agents suspended Solar's liquor license on drug-trafficking allegations its owners hotly disputed and the state was never required to prove.

By the time the license was reinstated and the club was allowed to resume serving liquor the following month, the club crowd had found a new place to party on the other side of downtown at Solar's chief competitors, the Factory and Flavour.

"Our clientele was hesitant to come back," said owner Jeff Winemiller. "The response wasn't great from the gay market."

With business dwindling, Winemiller decided to close the club. He reopened briefly for the Wet Party during Gay Pride over the Fourth of July weekend only to find himself locked out by the landlady, a situation he described as a "misunderstanding." The Wet Party drew a crowd of 300, not the number organizers had hoped, and the club closed again soon after.

Located at 911 N. Franklin St., Solar featured two bars on the first floor and a third bar and VIP room upstairs that overlooked the dance floor below.

During last year's International Association of Gay and Lesbian Choruses Festival, it was the hottest ticket in town, packing in nightly crowds of 2,000. Winemiller and partner Steve Engerer were proud to market the club as Tampa's only gay owned and operated gay club and were active supporters of the community, staging benefits for Tampa AIDS Network, the Human Rights Task Force

of Florida and other organizations.

Winemiller still controls the property and said he is talking to a couple of interested parties that may market the bar toward a different crowd. If all goes well, Winemiller said he would like to open a new club within a month. ▽

CUNANAN: PREVIOUSLY WOUNDED

MIAMI BEACH — Suspected killer Andrew Cunanan nursed a stomach wound in the days before he killed himself, but how he received the injury remains a mystery. Police found bloody bandages, cotton



Serial killer ANDREW CUNANAN: Mysteriously wounded.

swabs, gauze pads and penicillin pills in the Miami Beach houseboat where Cunanan ended his life with a gunshot to the head on July 23.

"I believe he did have a wound on his stomach, and he was treating himself with the medical supplies found on board," Anne Figueiras, spokeswoman for the Miami office of the FBI.

Cunanan, 27, was the prime suspect in the slaying of fashion designer Gianni Versace July 15 in Miami Beach, along with the murders of four men in Minnesota, Illinois and New Jersey in late April and early May.

Figueiras said she didn't know when, where or how Cunanan suffered the stomach injury. A law enforcement source told *The Sun-Sentinel* of Fort Lauderdale for a story that the perfectly round, shallow puncture wound was two weeks old, having occurred sometime after he arrived in South Florida.

"It wasn't a bullet, it wasn't a stab wound, but it was an injury," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The newspaper reported that investigators think it may have occurred while he committed one of the murders. ▽

APPEALS COURT TAKES BACK CUSTODY RULING

TALLAHASSEE — Nearly a year after a state appeals court upheld a trial judge in a custody battle between a lesbian mother and a father who killed his first wife, the court has withdrawn its decision.

The decision by the 1st District Court of Appeal to withdraw its August 1996 ruling came six months after Mary Ward, the Pensacola woman who lost custody of her daughter in August 1995, died of a heart attack.

The Pensacola judge who revoked Mary Ward's custody in August 1995 said he wanted to give her daughter a chance to live in "a non-lesbian world."

The child went to live with her father, who pleaded guilty to second-degree murder of his first wife in 1974 and served eight years in prison.

In a one-paragraph order last Friday, the 1st DCA dismissed Ms. Ward's appeal and withdrew its 1996 decision. ▽

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CENTRAL FLORIDA NEWS

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL FLORIDA JOINS CONSERVATIVE COUNCIL

ORLANDO — The head of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida (EDCF), conservative Bishop John Howe, announced recently that EDCF has joined the American Anglican Council (AAC), a conservative organization within the Episcopal Church, USA.

The announcement came on the heels of the denomination's triennial general convention in Philadelphia, which took several strong, liberal stands on women's and gay rights issues. The assembly voted to mandate women's ordination in all dioceses; allow churches to provide insurance benefits to domestic partners; and voted in a moderate liberal (Bishop Frank Griswold of Chicago) as Presiding Bishop.

The convention was marked by heated debate over a motion to permit religious blessing of same-sex marriages, which was defeated by a single vote.

Two conservative councils within the denomination, AAC and the Episcopal Synod of America (ESA) stridently opposed the convention's resolutions. The newly formed and more radical of the two, ESA, has announced that it is currently considering a split from the church, and has already formed a new synod based on theology, rather than geography, that is open to all churches and dioceses. ESA has said that members of the new synod would no longer forward financial contributions to the Episcopal Church's headquarters in

New York and could reject the authority of the general convention and the presiding bishop.

AAC, which describes itself as a network of individuals, churches and ministries "who affirms biblical authority and Anglican orthodoxy," and is working for change within the church, has not indicated that it intends to split from the denomination. Howe's announcement that EDCF has joined AAC reflects his anti-gay rights stance within the church, and he told a gathering of more than 400 people at St. Luke's Cathedral in Orlando that he had made his decision as a direct result of the Philadelphia convention.

Howe, who describes current Presiding Bishop Griswold as a "champion of the gay agenda," is acknowledged as a very conservative element in the diocese. His support of AAC raises fears within churches of EDCF that, should a split from the denomination occur, they would be at risk of losing their churches because many are owned by the diocese rather than the congregations themselves. While Howe said that the diocese has no plans to leave the denomination, he indicated his possible support of such a move in the future. ▽

ported that a lawsuit by Terry Kaplan against the police departments of Sanford and Altamonte Springs was not thrown out by Judge Leonard Wood, moving it one step closer to a jury trial. In October of 1993, Kaplan was arrested in a bathroom stall at Gayfers in Sanford and charged with exposing himself, a misdemeanor offense. Police charged that he had been masturbating in a public space.

Judge Wood questioned whether Kaplan has the same privacy rights in a public restroom stall as he does at home. "I think anybody...has the right to privacy when they go to the bathroom," the judge said. "If not, why do they put doors on?"

Kaplan is suing for false arrest, invasion of privacy and malicious prosecution. He contends that he had a rash on his upper right thigh, and had been scratching it furiously when a police officer jumped up over the top of the stall to arrest him. Kaplan was one of eight people arrested in the restroom that day, after a police sting by plainclothes officers had been set up due to reports from Gayfers' managers that men were performing homosexual acts in the restroom.

The charges against Kaplan were dropped by the State Attorney's Office in January of 1994. His suit seeks more than \$15,000 in damages, but it is not known when it will be heard by a jury. ▽

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GAY HUSTLER GETS LIFE FOR 1ST DEGREE MURDER

DAYTONA BEACH — Gary Ray Bowles, who currently sits on death row for the slaying of a Jacksonville man, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison by Judge R. Michael Hutcheson on August 6.

The Orlando Sentinel reported that Bowles confessed to killing John Hardy Roberts by hitting him on the head with a lamp and then strangling him on March 15, 1994. He then took the victim's car and used the man's bank card at an ATM. Bowles admitted that his motive was robbery.

Bowles, of Clifton Forge, VA, frequented gay bars, hustling men in exchange for lodging, household chores or sexual favors. He is accused of killing three gay men along the East Coast, and was sentenced to death for the Nov. 17, 1996 slaying of Walter Jammell Hinton in Jacksonville. Volusia County prosecutors thought a plea deal was appropriate in the Roberts case, since Bowles is already on death row. ▽

LAWSUIT ON PUBLIC PRIVACY GOES FORWARD

SANFORD — The Orlando Sentinel re-

LOCAL GROUP FORMING FOR GAY EDUCATORS

ORLANDO — A new group is in the process of being started for gay, lesbian and bisexual educators in Central Florida.

No format has been established for the proposed organization, which is being initiated with the help of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services, Inc. (GLCS). Currently, the idea is being presented to the community at large to see if there is any interest from educators. Bob King, volunteer coordinator at GLCS, who is helping a local lesbian teacher found the group, describes it as "a way for gay, lesbian and bisexual educators to get together to discuss their concerns."

Many gay, lesbian and bisexual teachers in Florida are being faced with such issues as job discrimination, job security, and dealing with homosexual students who are facing problems in school. The group would be open for all educators, from pre-school through college level, and will be designed to meet the needs of the participants. Anyone interested in helping to start or co-facilitate this effort is encouraged to call King at GLCS, (407) 425-4527. ▽

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TAMPA BAY NEWS

HEPATITIS A HITTING TAMPA GAYS, OFFICIALS SAY

TAMPA — A rash of Hepatitis A likely brought on by unsafe sex has broken out in Tampa's gay community, say Hillsborough County Health Department officials.

Twelve cases of the highly infectious disease involving gay men have been reported to the department in recent days, officials say. Most are thought to have been brought on by oral-anal sexual contact and, to a lesser extent, failure to wash hands after using the restroom.

Hepatitis A is generally caused by oral contact with bacteria found in fecal matter. While some infected individuals may experience no symptoms, it can cause acute illness, including vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, fatigue and jaundice.

Though not as common as Hepatitis B or as deadly as C, Hepatitis A is the most easily spread. Most sufferers fully recover from the disease, but some may relapse. In rare instances, the infection can be fatal.

Health department officials say practicing protected sex is key to avoiding the infection. Those handling used condoms after sex should wash their hands with soap. Officials warn that the disease can also be spread through contact with the saliva of an infected person.

Those at risk for Hepatitis A can get a preventive vaccine through a physician. Tests have shown that the inoculation is effective in more than 90 percent of patients.

For more information on Hepatitis A or

referrals to test sites, contact the health department at (813) 272-6348. ▽

GAY-FRIENDLY CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR HOUSE SEAT

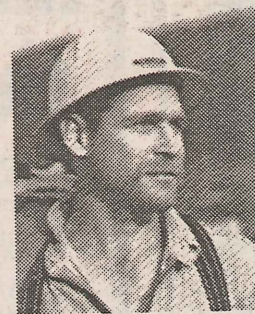
TAMPA — Among those getting into the race to replace state Rep. Elvin Martinez, who is stepping down to become a county judge, is Kathy Martinez, a pro-gay Democratic attorney with deep roots in the district.

Martinez, 38, is no relation to the longtime representative, but her family is well known in West Tampa. Her father, Dr. Victor Martinez, is a respected surgeon and former Hispanic Man of the Year in Tampa, while her brother, Victor Jr., is a local physician, as well.

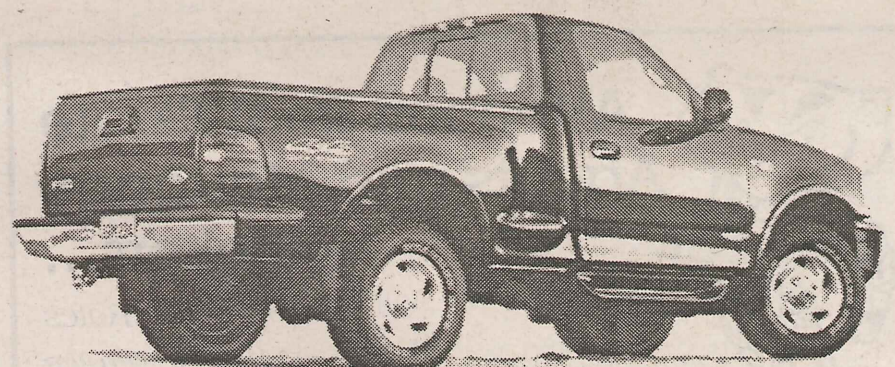
This will be Kathy Martinez' first run for public office, and she is already reaching out to the gay and lesbian community. In conversations with community leaders, she has promised to be a friend in the state Legislature and a leader on issues important to gays and lesbians.

Likely opposing Martinez in the Sept. 9 primary will be former Tampa City Councilman Eddie Caballero, a longtime foe of Tampa gays; University of South Florida architecture student John Rodriguez; and disgraced former Hillsborough County Commissioner Joe Kotvas, who served jail time in the '80s following a commission bribery scandal. All have said publicly that they intend to run.

Martinez is expected to formally announce her candidacy this week. ▽



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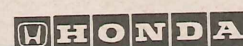


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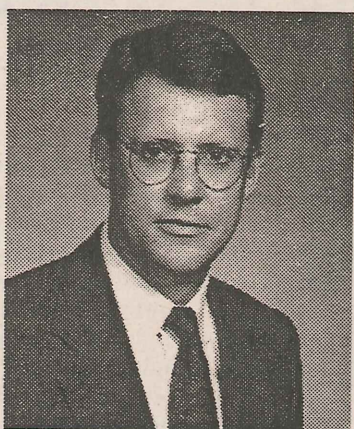
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BAPTISTS WILL GET SERIOUS ABOUT DISNEY BOYCOTT

NASHVILLE – The Southern Baptist Convention is urging members to withhold entertainment spending from the Walt Disney Co. in the next year, following through on a June resolution to boycott the company.

Richard Land, head of the convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, says the group will appeal to 91,000 pastors and church leaders. Land says he wants to energize the country's 15 million Southern Baptists and to send the message that the boycott won't die.

Southern Baptists approved a sweeping boycott of Disney in June to protest the company's overtures to the gay and lesbian community, as well as its production of television shows and movies that ridicule Christian values.

Pastors will get a fact sheet soon explaining why the denomination is boycotting Disney and asking them to appeal to their members for support, Land says. The sheet, designed to be inserted in church bulletins, calls on every Southern Baptist to withhold at least \$100 in entertainment spending from Disney in the next year.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ACTIVISTS PUSH FOR RESOLUTION TO UNSOLVED GAY SERIAL KILLINGS

SAN FRANCISCO – Andrew Cunanan's suicide halted one of the nation's most lurid cases of serial murder. But from New Jersey to Virginia to Texas, the slayings of as many as 30 gay men or transvestites, which activists believe are the work of five serial killers, remain unsolved.

In some cases, investigators have been hindered by lack of resources and, some allege, lack of interest.

"Gay-related cases aren't popular cases. And whether it's ignorance or homophobia, it's a big problem," asserts Bea Hanson, director of client services for the Anti-Violence Project in New York.

The possible serial killings include the 1994 stabbing deaths of three gay men in Irving, Texas; the shooting deaths, from 1987 to 1992, of six Atlanta men dressed in women's clothing; and the 1992 stabbing deaths of four men who were last seen in Denver gay bars, according to Anti-Violence Project statistics and newspaper accounts.

Hanson has also helped police link at least three murders in the New York metropolitan area, although she thinks as many as five may have been killed from 1991 through 1994.

To date, police have no suspects. But investigators reject the suggestion they treat gay murders differently.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GINGRICH: PANEL SHOULD LOOK AT SEX IN MILITARY

WASHINGTON – Controversy over gays in the military and recent sex scandals have demoralized troops, and a commission should be created to look at sex in the armed services, House Speaker Newt Gingrich said last Sunday.

The *Dallas Morning News* reported that the Pentagon began reviewing how its "don't ask, don't tell" policy is applied after discharges for homosexuality reached a five-year high of 850 in 1996.

"We're reviewing the enforcement of the policy, not the policy itself," Pentagon spokeswoman Monica Aloisio told the newspaper. "We think the policy works fine. We have no intention of changing it."

ASSOCIATED PRESS



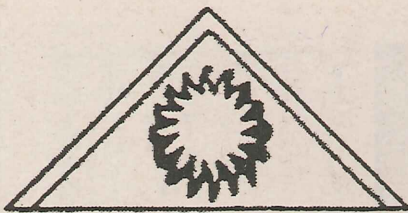
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NEWS BRIEFS



COURT SAYS LESBIAN ADOPTION CAN BE CONSIDERED

The Connecticut state Adoption Review Board can consider a lesbian's petition to adopt the 5-year-old son of her partner, a Superior Court referee has ruled. The Ledyard couple, referred to in court documents as Anne and Malinda, have lived together as a couple for more than 10 years. The baby was conceived by artificial insemination and born to Anne in May 1992.

DUTCH GAYS PROTEST BAN ON BLOOD DONORS

Turned away from blood banks because of fears about AIDS, Dutch gays are fighting for the right to give blood. Guidelines followed by all Dutch blood banks exclude homosexual men and intravenous drug users from giving blood. The ban aims at cutting the risk of receiving blood infected with HIV.

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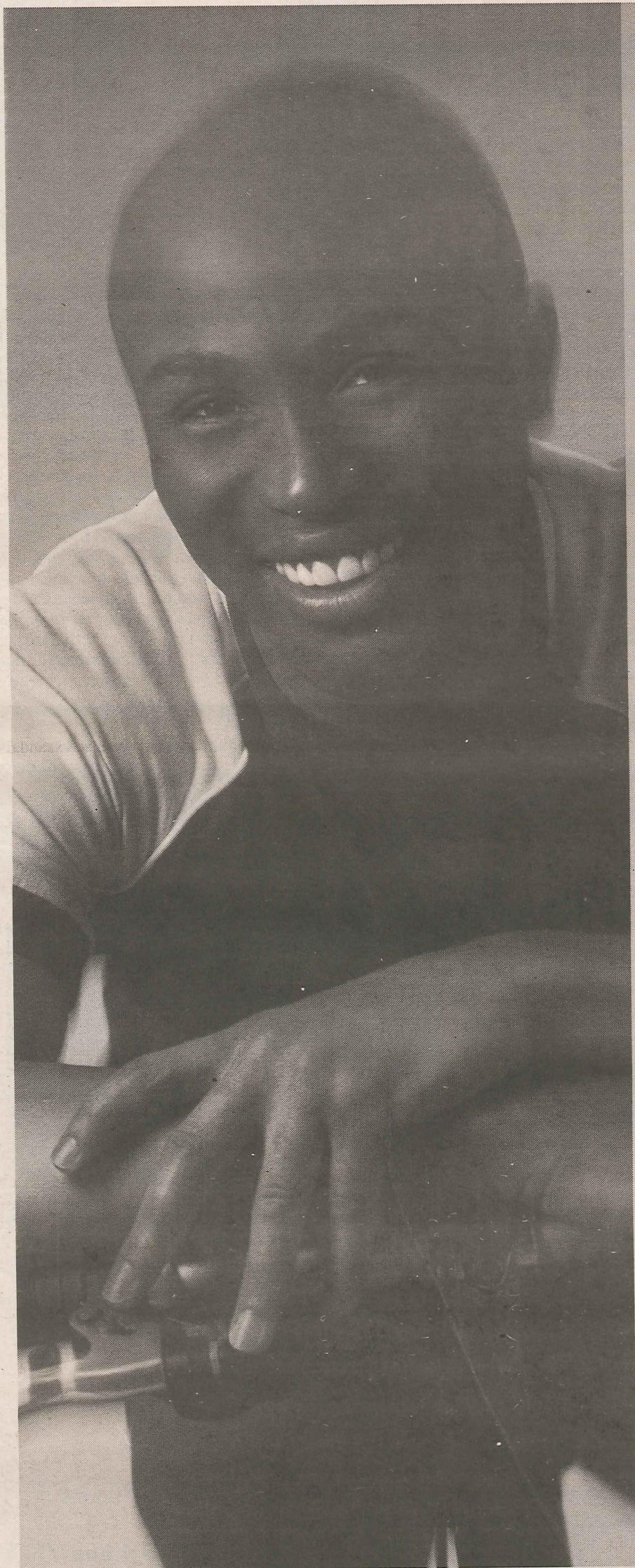
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ZERIT is approved for the treatment of HIV-infected persons who have already received prolonged AZT therapy. However, there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking ZERIT may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Please note that all HIV drugs cause side effects. ZERIT has been shown to cause tingling or pain in the hands or feet in 13% to 24% of people.

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HEALTH & HIV NEWS

SCIENTISTS FIND FLAW IN AZT

NEW YORK – Ten years after AZT hit the market, scientists say they’ve figured out why it doesn’t work better: Chemically, it’s a bad dance partner.

The discovery might lead to better weapons against the AIDS virus, the researchers said. But the company that makes AZT, Glaxo Wellcome Inc., which has its U.S. headquarters in Research Triangle Park, N.C., was skeptical.

An AZT molecule goes through an intricate dance in a user’s cells. It has to be modified three times to become effective against HIV, and to get that done, it has to dance with three different molecular partners. These partners are enzyme molecules that latch onto AZT one at a time, make a modification, and then let go.

The dance goes fine with the first partner. The problem comes with the second. When this enzyme and the AZT molecule pair up, the enzyme is far less efficient at making the crucial modification than it should be. This creates a bottleneck in the process, reducing the amount of activated AZT that can be built up to work on the AIDS virus.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DOCTORS DEBATE WHO SHOULD GET MORNING-AFTER AIDS TREATMENT

ATLANTA – In a debate over who might benefit from a morning-after treatment for HIV, Michigan AIDS director Randy Pope said he’s more concerned about what to call it first.

“Is it prevention or is it treatment?” Pope asked a group of experts who gathered in Atlanta to mull the idea of a blast of AIDS drugs for patients who fear they may have contracted HIV from a night of risky sex or a needle.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is trying to figure out whether to endorse the controversial practice or not. But first, they must dispense with the name game.

The government shuns the “morning-after” title because it wrongly implies one pill will

do it. Then, there’s “post-exposure prophylaxis.” That didn’t seem to work. Now, its wrestling over “post-exposure treatment.”

It may sound trivial, but it’s the root of disagreement among doctors over when it should be used, who would receive it and whether it will take money away from prevention programs that already work.

The treatment, which would likely take about a month, would give AIDS drugs to people as quickly as possible after a potential exposure to HIV. The idea is to start fighting right away the development of AIDS, even before people are certain they have HIV.

There is little proof that such a treatment works, although some preliminary studies suggest it might. But some doctors are already doing it.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEALTH BRIEFS



COURT RULES DEATH BENEFITS CANNOT BE REVOKED FOR LYING

Massachusetts’s highest court has ruled that insurance companies cannot deny benefits after a life insurance policy has been in effect for two years—even if people lied about their health. The ruling stems from the case of Dennis J. Sullivan, a Massachusetts man who was HIV-positive and later developed AIDS. Sullivan did not disclose his condition when he bought a \$100,000 life insurance policy from the Protective Life Insurance Co. in 1991.

NIGERIAN POP MUSIC SUPERSTAR AND DISSIDENT FELA DEAD AT 58

Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, a pop superstar who fused rock with African rhythms into a blend known as “Afrobeat” and was a persistent critic of Nigeria’s military regime, has died of AIDS, his family said. He was 58. Fela, known across the continent by his first name, was one of the dominant superstars of African music in the 1970s and 1980s and had recorded more than 50 albums.

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INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT (stavudine) is indicated for the treatment of HIV-infected patients who have received prolonged prior zidovudine therapy. The duration of clinical benefit from antiretroviral therapy may be limited. Alteration in antiretroviral therapy should be considered if disease progression occurs while receiving ZERIT.

CLINICAL STUDIES

Study AI455-019 was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind trial of ZERIT Capsules vs zidovudine for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with CD4 counts of 50 to 500 cells/mm³ who had received at least six months prior zidovudine treatment. ZERIT was administered in dosages of 40 mg BID for patients weighing ≥60 kg, and 30 mg BID for those weighing <60 kg. The zidovudine dosage was 200 mg TID. The study enrolled 822 patients with a median baseline CD4 count of 235 cells/mm³ (range: 10 to 735 cells/mm³), and a median duration of prior zidovudine treatment of 88 weeks (range 11 to 356 weeks). Fourteen percent of subjects had AIDS at baseline, 50% had HIV-related symptoms and 36% were asymptomatic.

Table 1 gives the Kaplan-Meier estimates for the time to disease progression.

Table 1 -- Incidence of Disease Progression		
	First AIDS - Defining Event or Death*	
	ZERIT	zidovudine
6 months	4.4%	5.7%
12 months	10.4%	14.1%
18 months	18.5%	23.3%
24 months	26.6%	31.8%

* Kaplan-Meier estimates; the overall difference between stavudine and zidovudine was not significant.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. This complication occurred in 19 and 24 percent of the 11,784 patients with advanced HIV disease who received the two dose levels of stavudine in the Parallel Track Program. In patients with less advanced HIV infection in the zidovudine comparative trial, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 13 percent of ZERIT-treated patients as compared to 4 percent of zidovudine-treated patients.

Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy that is usually characterized by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

Patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy are at increased risk for the development of neuropathy. If stavudine must be administered in this clinical setting, careful monitoring is essential.

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients

Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT.

Patients should be informed that the most common toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Symptoms of peripheral neuropathy usually include tingling, burning, pain, or numbness in the hands or feet. Patients should be counseled that this toxicity occurs with greater frequency in patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy. They should be advised that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians and that dose changes may be necessary. They should also be cautioned about the use of other medications that may exacerbate peripheral neuropathy.

Caregivers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be informed that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Laboratory Tests

Mild to moderate increases in AST (SGOT) and ALT (SGPT) occurred commonly in clinical trials; these did not interfere with continued therapy.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Long-term carcinogenicity studies of stavudine in animals have not been completed. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, *E. coli* reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 2500 µg/mL, with and without metabolic activation).

* The parallel track program (STUDY AI455-900) treated 12,551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <300/mm³ who had failed, were intolerant of, or had contraindications to other therapies.

In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy

Pregnancy "Category C". Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternebra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This is consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV.

Pediatric Use

Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional safety data in 115 pediatric patients and pharmacokinetic data in 25 of these patients.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients (age range: 5 weeks to 15 years, weight range: 2 to 43 kg) after IV and oral administration of 0.125, 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg as single doses and as BID regimens. The mean ± SD absolute bioavailability was 76.9 ± 31.7% (n=20). Peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) increased in proportion to dose after both single and multiple doses.

Following intravenous infusions (n=21), the mean ± SD volume of distribution was 18.5 ± 9.17 L/m². The distribution of stavudine into cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was assessed in 8 pediatric patients after 12 weeks of multiple oral dosing. The concentration of stavudine in CSF samples ranged from 0.008 to 0.105 µg/mL at times ranging from 2 to 3 hours post-dose (dose ranging from 0.125 to 1 mg/kg). CSF concentrations ranged from 16% to 125% (mean ± SD of 59% ± 35%) of the concentration in simultaneous plasma samples.

The terminal elimination half-life after oral or intravenous administration of stavudine was approximately one hour. The mean ± SD total body clearance after intravenous infusion was 247 ± 94 mL/min/m². The mean ± SD apparent oral clearance was 333 ± 87 mL/min/m². The percent of the dose excreted unchanged in the urine was 34.5% after oral administration.

The clearance of stavudine is related to both body surface area and body weight. When dosing according to body weight, the recommended dosage for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 2 mg/kg/day in divided doses. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dose.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT (stavudine) is peripheral neuropathy (see "WARNINGS" section).

Adults: Peripheral neuropathy is dose related (see Table 2). Modest elevation of hepatic transaminases was also observed commonly in controlled trials.

Table 2 Peripheral Neuropathy Leading to Dose Modification				
	Study AI455-019		Parallel Track Program	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=5905)	zidovudine (20 mg BID) (n=5879)
Peripheral Neuropathy				
Grade 1-2	11	3	20	17
Grade 3-4	2	1	4	2
Total	13	4	24	19

Selected adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study AI455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Table 3 Selected Clinical Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Controlled Clinical Trials		
	Study AI455-019*	
Adverse Events	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Headache	54	49
Chills/Fever	50	51
Diarrhea	50	43
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	38	44
Abdominal Pain	34	27
Myalgia	32	35
Insomnia	29	31
Anorexia	19	22
Allergic Reaction	9	8
Pancreatitis	*	*

* This event was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.
* Includes all clinical complaints.
* Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Laboratory abnormalities reported in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study AI455-019) are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Controlled Clinical Trials; Incidence of Adult Laboratory Abnormalities ^a		
	Study AI455-019 ^b	
Lab Tests (units)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
AST (SGOT) (≤5.0 x ULN ^c)	11	10
ALT (SGPT) (≤5.0 x ULN)	13	11
Bilirubin (>5.0 x ULN)	2	2
Anemia (<8.0 g/dL)	-	3
Neutropenia (neutrophils <750/mm ³)	5	9
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm ³)	3	3
Amylase (>1.4 x ULN)	14	13

* This abnormality was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.
* Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.
* Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.
* ULN = upper limit of normal.

Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

OVERDOSAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic over-dosage include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. It is not known whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

HOW SUPPLIED

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Table 5				
Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964	15	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965	20	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966	30	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967	40	0003-1967-01

ZERIT for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label. ZERIT for Oral Solution is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water (NDC No. 0003-1968-01). US Patent No.: 4,978,655

Storage: ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

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COVER STORY



BILLIE JEAN KING: "I'm pretty excited about life, really."

ADVANTAGE, BILLIE JEAN

Almost single handedly, Billie Jean King changed the way women athletes are perceived in this country. In this exclusive interview, she talks about the many challenges—personal and professional—she encountered along the way.

by Tom Dyer

For the better part of two decades, Billie Jean King was synonymous with women's professional sports in this country. As her tennis fortunes rose, so did those of her sister athletes... and that is no mere coincidence. Quite simply, few feminists have been more significant, and no one—no one in our country's history—has done more to elevate women's athletics.

Particularly during the seventies, it seemed King was everywhere. Her visage was as ubiquitous as that of Elizabeth Taylor or Richard Nixon or, well, of her buddy Elton John. For many she was an acquired taste, because she was like nothing seen before; an unabashedly competitive, highly charismatic female athlete who played to win and charged every shot. She wasn't afraid to grunt and groan, and she insisted—*willed*—that the TV cameras be pointed at her (in-

stead of all those men) while she did it. She put on a show.

In 1967, King won Wimbledon's triple crown, taking the women's singles, doubles, and mixed doubles titles. For the next decade or so she reigned as the undisputed Queen of Women's Tennis. Eventually, she accumulated a record 20 Wimbledon titles. Her 1973 nationally televised Battle of the Sexes match with Bobby Riggs riveted an entire nation, still holding the record for the most people ever to watch a tennis match.

But more importantly, King translated her achievements on the tennis court into a powerful course of action off the field. She was a vocal advocate for Title IX, the groundbreaking legislation which established college athletic scholarships for women.

In 1978, King's world was turned upside

down when a female "friend" attempted to extort money from her by taking their affair public. In this interview, King talks sensitively about that painful episode, and about her heretofore unclear image in the gay and lesbian community. Warm, witty, accessible... I think you'll find that there's much to like, and much to admire, about this legend.

WATERMARK: *Life* magazine named you one of the 100 Most Important Americans of the Twentieth Century. And I wonder... are you conscious of everything that you've accomplished?

BILLIE JEAN KING: Really, I don't think about stuff like that much. I try to think about today and tomorrow, and not yesterday. I reflect on yesterday, especially if I think that there are things I could do better today, but otherwise no... I keep thinking that I probably haven't done enough.

Really? I have the feeling that, along with myself, the people reading this are feeling totally inadequate right now. What

more would you do?

Well, there's so much more to do. I've given a lot of my time to tennis, but my interests certainly go elsewhere... civil rights, minority rights, gay and lesbian issues... all that. Those are very important to me. In fact, I've been looking into what I want to do with the next part of my life. I may want to start some sort of "Billie Jean King Foundation," and use that to pursue some of those things.

How do you feel at 53?

I feel great. Probably the best I've ever felt in my life... at least emotionally and spiritually. Physically, only pretty good, but I've been trying to get back in shape. I tend to get so focused on things—I'm pretty obsessive—that I have to be careful and remember to take care of myself.

A writer for *Sports Illustrated* wrote this about you: "Her 39 Grand Slam titles in singles, doubles and mixed doubles have been, by her own standards, the least of her many accomplishments. She isn't happy unless she is championing a cause, whether it's professionalism on the court or feminism in the world at large." Is that a statement you can get behind?

I think it's pretty accurate. I might even broaden that statement a little more. There's no question that I'd like to have equality for women. For example, someone told me recently that women get something like one in four charity dollars in this country. And that's just not right. So I would like to work, maybe through my foundation, to ensure that women get equal charitable dollars.

Something else I read—and there's a lot written about you, by the way—absolutely amazed me. Your prize for your first Wimbledon singles title in 1967 was a gift certificate for women's tennis wear... and that was it! True?

Very true. Back in the sixties, we didn't have "open tennis," which means there was no prize money for the major tournaments, and players who had turned pro couldn't

Continued Page 12

ELTON, BILLIE JEAN, AND SMASH HITS COME TO ORLANDO

Billie Jean King and Elton John bring their annual Columbia World Team Tennis All-Star Smash Hits to Disney's Wide World of Sports complex at 7 PM on Wednesday, Sept. 10. They will be joined by four-time Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras, past Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion Andre Agassi, reigning French Open champion Iva Majoli, and 1995 Australian Open champion Mary Pierce.

Tickets are \$35 - \$50, or \$250 to also attend a post-game auction and reception attended by all the participants. All proceeds benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation, as well as four local Orlando AIDS charities. For info, or to charge tickets by phone, call (407) 839-3900.



ELTON JOHN and BILLIE JEAN KING: "We're like children when we're near each other, 'cause we're both kinda chunky and we wear glasses."

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COVER STORY

BILLIE JEAN KING

From Page 11

compete at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open and the like. And then in 1968 we started to get prize money.

And by 1971 you had become the first woman athlete to win over \$100,000 in a single year...

Also true. It took 19 tournaments to do it, and it about killed me. I had to play tennis just about every day of the year, but we wanted desperately to break \$100,000 just to get some attention for women's tennis. And I also wanted the attention because Title IX was being discussed at the time. My making \$100,000 that year was news... people paid attention to it... because it was such an incredible exception to the rule. Men were getting rich and even the best women were making nothing in professional sports.

Things have changed so much—in women's tennis and women's athletics—

and you've played such a huge role in that change. Before it all began happening, did you have a vision for women's athletics?

There was a pretty clear vision. Even at twelve years old, I wanted to change tennis. But at least at first, I wasn't really thinking in terms of women's tennis. I was thinking in terms of tennis. As a youngster, I always wanted tennis to be a team sport.

And that's what we'll see when you and Elton John come to Disney next month...

Right. He and I will be team captains. And I need to tell you right now that he is so competitive that it's ridiculous! He hates to lose!

Is he any good at tennis?

(Pause.) He has a good forehand.

On any level at all—even in the deepest, darkest depths of your psyche—do you resent the amount of money the best tennis players are making these days?

I don't resent it. I'd like to have it, though. It is a ton of money, and I would

use it to create so many opportunities. Most of these people, they make their money and then they just kind of sit around with it. If you're going to make all this money and have trillions of dollars at the end of your life, what is the point?

I wanted to ask you about the Battle of the Sexes with Bobby Riggs back in 1973. I remember watching it in college with my fraternity brothers, and you being carried into the AstroDome by all those muscle boys...

Yup. It was the Big Time.

The whole country watched. I read that you were so nervous that you threw up in the locker room beforehand.

Not quite. I felt like throwing up. I was standing over the toilet... for quite a long time, actually.

What was at stake for you that night?

I felt like just about everything was at stake. It felt like life and death to me, quite frankly. Seriously, Tom. You have to remember, Title IX had just started in 1972—a whole whopping \$100,000 in athletic scholarships to women—and we'd just begun the Virginia Slims Tour the year before. It was the height of the Women's Movement. The media was all over us, which was the point, of course. But the pressure was enormous. And what a lot of people don't remember is that Bobby had played Margaret Court—a very good women's tennis player—earlier that year and had annihilated her.

And you killed him in straight sets...

I did beat him, but it was really... well, every single day of my life I have at least one or more people come up to me to talk to me, or tease me, or tell me they won or lost money on that match. Every day.

It really was one of those moments that defined a time and place in our country.

Yes, it was. It was defining. It was a moment in time where everybody remembers where they were and what it meant to them. And it had nothing to do with tennis. What that match did was trigger everyone's emotions and everyone's dysfunction about their

gender—and we all have them. It was just amazing the way it got everyone so riled up.

It really made people think about women as athletes. This is 1997, but we forget; women ath-

letes were not accepted. And now there are these incredible women's team sports, and it's all because of Title IX and the things that happened in the seventies.

I remember that when Title IX was being discussed, people were terrified of it; that it would lead to shared bathrooms and the downfall of America as we know it.

I never understood it. I mean people made such a big deal about the bathrooms! When Phyllis Schafly used to go on and on about the bathrooms I used to think to myself, "When someone comes to her home for dinner, is there a women's room and a men's room?"

But what do you think people were really afraid of? I mean, it can't have all been about bathrooms...

I think it's about power. If you look at every race and culture, you see that everybody wants someone else to be below them, and it's usually women. Which is really scary and sick, but it's also really the way people live. Instead of trying to raise everyone up to the same level, most people in the world want to be above someone else—to have more money, more power—and it's certainly that way in our country, especially in the business world.

Some things have changed...

But we still have such a long way to go.

Continued Page 14

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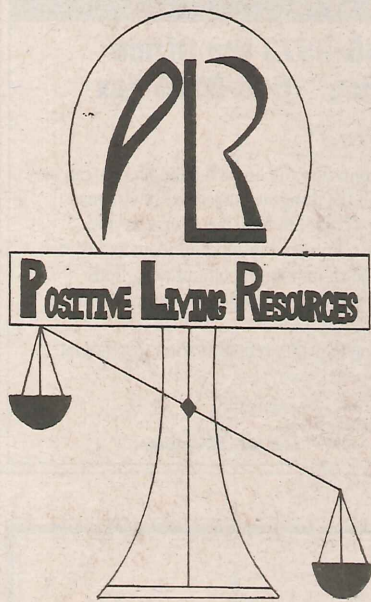
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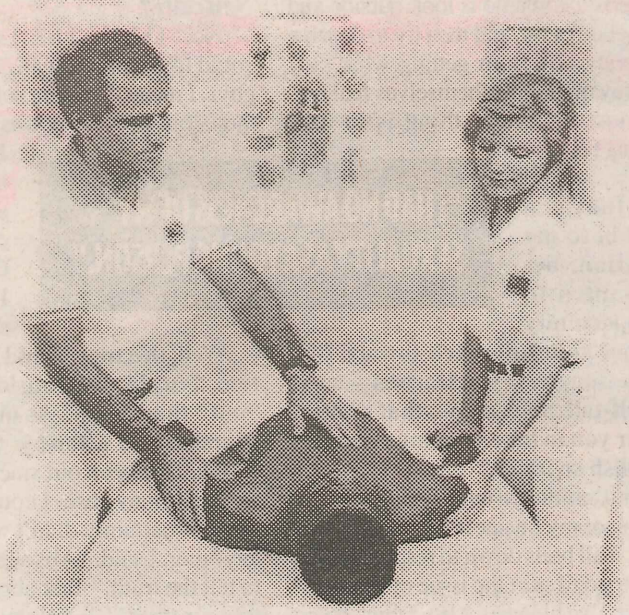
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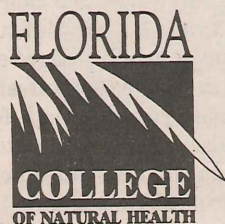
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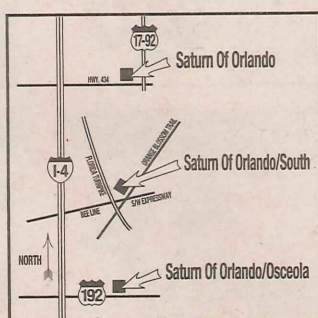
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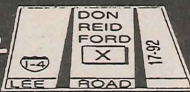


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BILLIE JEAN KING

From Page 12

You know what. If most people would look in the mirror, and learn to get their own act together, and work on whatever they need to work on within themselves and within their own family, then that would be wonderful. But what most people do is look outside and blame somebody else, and then try to deprive that somebody else from getting what they have as a way of making themselves feel better. The most important thing is to take responsibility for your own life.

"Well, that's a great lead in to my next question, because I wanted to use this opportunity to ask about your approach toward life. What life lessons have you learned—that make it possible for you to take so many risks and to accomplish so much?"

Whether it's hitting a tennis ball, or in my personal life, or my business life, or any area of my life... it all boils down to responsibility. When I've tried to skirt the issue of responsibility is when I've blown it. Also, I think being dedicated to my truth, and to other people's truth, is very important. It sounds so easy when you say, "I want to be dedicated to my truth... my values and ethics and goals," but it isn't easy. It's very difficult.

You're acknowledged as somewhat of a guru in the area of motivation. How do you motivate yourself, both for the big stuff, and also just for the day-to-day stuff? And how do you motivate other people?

I'm pretty excited about life, really. When I wake up and open my eyes, I know it's another bonus; an opportunity to live another day.

What about other people?

That's really easy for me. Unless I can tell they're not really in it, and don't want to do it. And then it's really important not to

try to motivate them.

You recently said, "I've struggled with my sexuality for years." Does that mean figuring it out, or does that mean accepting it, or does that mean acknowledging it publicly?

I think all three. All of them. I had no awareness of my sexuality as a young person.

Really?

No... I had no idea. I never thought that I could like women at all. I liked guys. I dated guys. I mean, I'm sure subconsciously it was there, but I certainly was unaware of it. Yes,

I've had a long struggle with my sexuality. But I've come to terms with that pretty well... I've accepted myself pretty well now.

Well, this may sound like a stupid question, but do you consider yourself to be "out" these days? As out as your friends Martina and Elton?

Oh, I've been out since 1981. Ever since that palimony case. I could've lied, and my lawyers certainly didn't want me to admit to anything. I said, "Absolutely not. I'm going to tell the truth." Talk about being dedicated to your truth, I'll tell you... that was a moment of truth. That was a horrible moment for me. It was basically blackmail. She said I promised her all this stuff, and I never promised her anything. She lied and lied and lied. It was extortion. But the truth was, we did have an affair.

Y'know Billie Jean, my recollection of that is that you admitted to the affair, but then sort of backpedaled by making it very clear that you were a married woman and happy in that marriage and intended to honor that marriage and that the affair was a mistake.

Well, I was very married. I was still with Larry, no question. However, what I wanted people to understand... and I think this is

Continued Page 17

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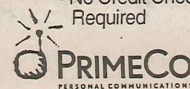
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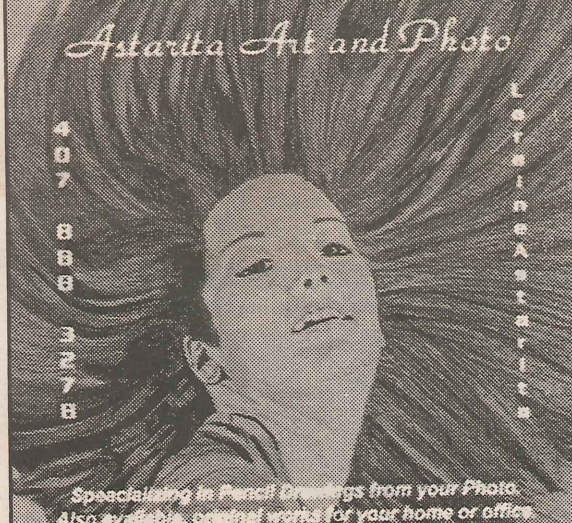
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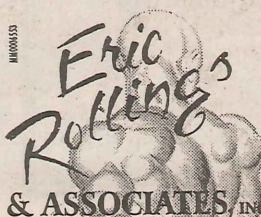
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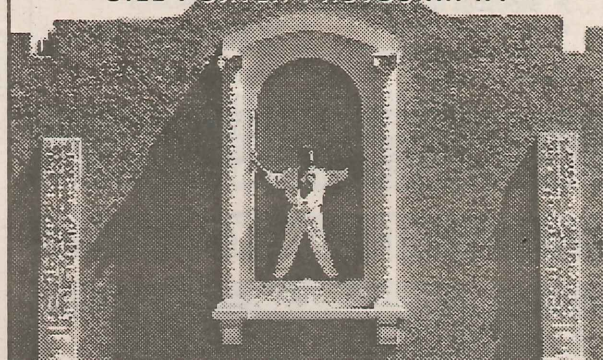
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COVER STORY

BILLIE JEAN KING

From Page 11

where it got all mixed up, looking back, because this was a very tumultuous, difficult time for me, and I probably wasn't thinking all that clearly... but what I wanted people to understand when I said that it was a mistake was that it was a mistake to be in a committed relationship and then have an affair with another person. And that would be true if I were married to a man, or in a lesbian relationship, or whatever. I think many people, like you, were thinking that I was saying that it was a mistake to be with a woman, and that's not what I meant.

You must have had all kinds of people around you telling you to keep quiet, or to cover things up.

No one wanted me to come out at all... to admit to anything. But I said, "I'm not going to lie to the public. They've been great to me. And to lie about this is not being true to myself."

Martina's being out has certainly cost her millions in endorsements. Do you think there will ever be a time when an openly lesbian or gay professional athlete will be palatable to the American public?

Well, that's one of our goals, that's for sure. Absolutely. But what do you think has to happen? Just more people coming out?

Yes... when they're ready, because there is a real high cost there. I don't think the public has any concept of the price paid by a successful professional athlete who comes out. One thing... men in professional sports are never asked about their sexuality. It's only the women who get asked that question. Which is very irritating to us. I mean, ask both genders if you're going to ask.

I think that's one reason why so many people—not athletes, but just everyday people—are reluctant to come out. There's this fear that you'll forever be defined by this one characteristic; that it's all people will see.

Well, not only does it define you, but there can be consequences. It can cost you your job. I lost all my endorsements within 24 hours of the palimony disclosure. Within 24 hours, and we're talking millions and millions and millions of dollars. At the time I was so devastated by the way I was treated... well, it's taken me this long... in fact, I'd say I'm still working on getting over that moment in life.

It must have been unbelievable...

The thing was, I was at the end of my career. When Martina came out, she was still young enough to keep playing. She may have lost endorsements, but they're not going to keep you out of a tournament because of your sexual orientation, so she could still play and earn a living. And she and I discussed this. I told her, "You can still play. Whether every company turns you down, you can go out and win prize money... you can go out and show 'em."

And what courage that took. I have so much admiration for that woman...

Me too. Our lives were a little different. She kind of knew, like, when she was a baby that she was attracted to women. I told her (in oriental accent), "You so lucky, girl." I tease her. But that was the one big difference. When I try to explain to people how much coming out cost me, they'll sometimes say, "Well, look at Martina," and I say, "Well, yeah... but you're not thinking this through. I was 38! I couldn't go out and play tennis anymore." I did play for two more years... mostly to pay lawyers... but I had to really restructure my life and my finances. She was winning \$2 million a year when she came out. You can do just fine with that. Don't get me wrong. She has not been treated fairly, and she doesn't have near the endorsements she should have... but thank god she could play. ▼

VIEWPOINT

GAYMERICA



by Todd Simmons

SURVEY SAYS: The latest polling data shows GOP gubernatorial hopeful Jeb Bush with a six-point lead over Democratic Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay for next year's race. We should all be very scared.

Bush, you may remember, barely lost in '94 to Gov. Lawton Chiles, even though Bush chose as his running mate far-right fanatic Tom Feeney, a state representative from Orlando. Bush uttered no small amount of homophobic pledges during the campaign, including coming out against laws banning discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation. There is no sign that he has become anything other than more wed to the lunatic fundamentalist fringe as he prepares for the '98 race.

MacKay, on the other hand, is better in theory, but has done nothing for gays and lesbians in practice. Despite representing a party that claims to be for equality for gays and lesbians, neither he nor Chiles did anything to prevent a stridently anti-gay marriage law from passing in last spring's legislative session.

But should our gubernatorial choice be so sorry as to be between benign neglect and outright persecution? Can Florida's Democratic Party do no better for its considerable gay membership?

The early word is 'no.' Where are you, Bob Butterworth?

WHAT ABOUT STRAIGHT RAPISTS? A recent *Tampa Tribune* story on a same-sex rape at the University of South Florida underscored both the different treatment that media accord gays and lesbians and the importance of having queer editors in the newsroom.

Here are the facts: A man not affiliated with USF approached another man, claiming to be a supervisor at the university and offering him a job. Taking the man to a room in the College of Fine Arts, he told him to disrobe for a physical examination, and the man complied. The first man then attempted oral sex, and when the second refused, he raped him.

The Tribune's reaction? "University police seek gay rapist," screamed the headline. "USF police searched Wednesday for a homosexual rapist who assaulted a man inside the College of Fine Arts," read the breathless lead.

Of course, the assailant's sexual orientation had nothing to do with the rape. As most enlightened folks know by now, rape is a crime of violence and power, not of passion.

Furthermore, neither *The Tribune* nor any other medium I'm aware of routinely makes rapists sexual orientations part of crime stories. They generally describe the crime itself, the assailant and police efforts to catch the person and assist the victim. When's the last time you saw a headline that said, "Police Seek Straight Rapist"?

MODEL T: Gucci design superstar Tom Ford is the subject of a documentary on the rise of the fashion industry that's been airing recently on VH1. Those of you who keep up with the design biz know Ford as the openly gay head of the venerable Italian fashion house who's been credited with turning Gucci from has-been status to cutting edge in recent years.

While the documentary was agonizingly self-important it did manage to touch on gay themes and featured no small amount of queer imagery, from gay models to lesbian go-go dancers at a party after the show.

One of the most enlightening moments came when Ford was asked about a recent cover story on him in *The Advocate*. *The New York Times*, among other papers, called the feature Ford's "coming out" story, which he found strange.

"I thought, 'coming out?' I've never been 'in,'" he said, also describing the *Advocate* piece as an honest, accurate reflection of the interview he gave the magazine.

Ford is among a relatively new phenomenon in the overwhelmingly gay fashion industry: Openly gay designers. Such figures as Halston, Calvin Klein—even prissy Mr. Black, for gods sake—have felt compelled by industry homophobia to masquerade as straight at various times in their careers. But in more recent times, Jean-Paul Gaultier, the late Gianni Versace and Ford have been completely comfortable being known as gay men.

The same documentary, by the way, featured several asides with Merv Griffin, who owns the facility where the show was held. The corpulent former talk show host and palimony suit target was seen ogling a shirtless male model at one point, asking if what he was wearing was his outfit for the show. That's a nice hair shirt, mumbled a hot-and-bothered Merv to the hirsute man, quickly waddling out of frame. ▼



VIEWPOINT



"MY TURN!" WHAT THE SOUTHERN BAPTISTS DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT SODOMY

by Clive Thomas

Remember Roger Rabbit? Because he lived in ToonTown, they called what he did, cartoons. Right? Cruising on the same high, sophisticated level of logic, the Southern Baptists, and their Fundamentalist colleagues, love to use the word "Sodomites" to refer to the likes of you and me. The genesis of this word, so to speak, is in the first book of the Bible, (Genesis, Chapter 19). There you can learn all about the town of Sodom, which was supposed to be the world's first and only totally (or almost totally) gay city.

Judging from the influence it's had on

Western thought, one might assume the story of Sodom is an extremely well constructed and incisive piece of writing....not to mention, pro-Family Values. Well, let's see.

IN THE BEGINNING, two really hot young men enter Sodom. Since they don't know anyone in town, they figure they'll spend the night on park benches.

Actually, they are Boy Angels come down from heaven, and Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise should look so good! But because the Bible hasn't been written yet, they don't realize that: a) gay people are extremely dangerous,

and b) Sodom is the granddaddy of all gay ghettos. A local named Lot, whom we can assume is straight because he's married, persuades the two Angel Boys that they better take shelter at his house, just to be safe.

When word spreads around Sodom that there are two new faces staying over at Lot's house, all the men in town (that's *all* the men), "old and young from every quarter" form into a sort of big horny hunting party—"compass(ing) the house round."

The mob lays siege to Lot's house and demands to know "Where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us that we might know them." (I'll assume y'all know what "know" means in the Bible.)

Remember, the two Angel Boys inside have the temporary rank of gods, and they are quite capable of defending themselves against a bunch of Bronze Age queers. But they let Lot go outside alone to confront the sex mob. We know for sure it is a gay sex mob, because when Lot tries to save his two house guests by offering to send out his two lucious, young *virgin* daughters in place of the boys, the mob turns really ugly and "pressed sore upon Lot." At this point the Boy Angels have to act quickly to save Lot's life by pulling him back inside. Then they use their angel powers to cause every queer in the crowd to go blind on the spot!

But that's only a temporary fix. God's permanent fix for the Sodomites is total annihilation. Sodom gets his special Hiroshima Treatment.

Regarding Family Values: God does not punish Lot for offering up his daughters for gang rape, figuring any good host would do

as much for a couple of visitors he's had under his roof the for all of a few hours. God does, however, see fit to bump off Lot's wife and the mother of his children when she disregards a last minute nonsequitur order not to look back as God blows up her house (she probably thought He was kidding).

Let's see; where are we with this? Hunky Angel Boys sleeping in the park? Roving packs of sex crazed queers? A straight guy trying desperately to pimp off his virgin

daughters to a gay mob? All so they'll let him keep the Angel Boys alone with him in his house??? Over night???? A *straight* guy? What's really amazing here is how anybody with an IQ above that of a geranium could take this looney tune seriously long enough to begin discussing

its incredibly deep theological implications.

You expect any minute to see one of those cartoon cars with a silly face and a red balloon nose on its radiator grill come skidding into Sodom on one patched pink tire. But, no. Instead, what happens next is Lot proves he is straight by personally screwing both of his virgin daughters....in a cave. They get pregnant, and their children of incest grow up to spawn tribes that become enemies of Israel. And eventually God gives them all—you guessed it—His Hiroshima Treatment.

Heterosexual pimping and incest notwithstanding, the Southern Baptists say that, based largely on this nutball narrative from 900BC, we should all be called "Sodomites," and a major American corporation in 1997AD must control the numbers of "Sodomites" who access everything from its theme parks to its medical plans.

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VIEWPOINT



Mail

"It serves no purpose to throw stones, and to point fingers. It is illogical to believe that the [GLCS] board members in any way were aware of the potential for the actual theft."

— Ralph Huber

NEITHER NEW NOR GROWING OLD

Hi, I'm Penny Ensley. I want to introduce myself to those of you whom I have not yet met. I was seated on the board of directors of Gay and Lesbian Community Services, Inc. (GLCS) on May 19th. Within day, if not hours, of my being seated, the catastrophic revelation of what an unscrupulous person did to this Center and our community came to light.

Since that time, many of my fellow board members have left their positions for various reasons of their own. I ask you to help me in thanking them for their dedication to GLCS and our community.

But now, we grow. With your help, this organization will be bigger and better—despite the unlawful acts of one person. The board of GLCS and myself urge you to tell your friends of the work we are doing, and to help us achieve the greatness that is due GLCS.

The current interim board sits until October's elections. My hopes and wishes are that the many of you who have expressed interest and concern in this organization will choose to participate at all levels of GLCS.

While I am new on the board, my involvement in GLCS is neither new nor growing old. I welcome your questions or comments. I look forward to working with you as GLCS moves forward.

Penny Ensley
Orlando, FL

REPREHENSIBLE TRASH IN THE COMMUNITY

This letter is directed to Mr. Bill Easterling and his uneducated and uninformed commentary in your "Mail" for the July 10 - 23 issue, directed at the GLCS board of directors. Why do you publish such trash?

While there is responsibility borne by the GLCS directors, it certainly is not all their responsibility. As I recall, the board of directors are elected by the general members, and candidates are selected through very meticulous review. So, now then, let's hold all the members responsible and pass around the collection plate to each of them for their part in this heinous crime.

Ridiculous! First, the criminal is wholly responsible, and his actions reprehensible.

Have we forgotten the good that GLCS has done? What it has achieved over the years for the good of the community? Where is the support from us, the community at large, now that they are in need? Who reached out and said, "We're here, and we're grateful for all you have done. What can we do to help?" Bill, were you there? What did you offer in way of support?

Having lived in communities with large, cohesive gay men and women, it has been my pleasure to see what the body can do as one. Remember Stonewall? March on Washington? Harvey Milk? The Quilt? As one, we are unstoppable.

It serves no purpose to throw stones, and to point fingers. It is illogical to believe that the board members in any way were aware of the potential for the actual theft. These dedicated men and women volunteer to do what they do because they care for us as a people and a community, often diligently working with little or no thanks from us. Sure, mistakes in the GLCS' organization may have been made. But, we learn from our mistakes, pick up the pieces, glue them back together, and faithfully move on.

Nobody is perfect, that is except for Bill Easterling—"Let he who is without sin cast the first stone!" I know I dare not pick up any rocks!

Orlando needs to continue to grow as a cohesive, caring, and dedicated community. It's no longer scary to say you are gay or lesbian; those who have come before have paved great inroads so that our younger sisters and brothers do not have to bear the magnitude of stigmas that once so long prevailed. Start believing that we, as a group of people, need to ask not what the community can do for us, but rather what we can do for our community!

Let's all be part of the solution. See you all at the next GLCS, Rainbow Democratic Club, Metropolitan Business Association, Metropolitan Community Church, CENTAUR, Hope and Help or other local group meeting or group program, and let's start to love each other from within—as we certainly have enough hate from without—our "family."

Ralph Huber
Minuteman Press
Winter Park, FL

ON TRUST, FAIRNESS, AND COMMITMENT

The following letter was sent to President Clinton by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and a copy e-mailed to Watermark:

Dear Mr. President,

The Board of Directors of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund—representing members across the Nation—urgently requests your attention to a matter of considerable importance to our community: the absence of high-level gay and lesbian appointments in the Administration. Here is the situation we face:

1. The gay and lesbian community is a significant portion of the electorate. The major networks' exit polls from last November showed that 5% of the voters nationwide identified themselves as gay or lesbian. In understanding the significance of gay and lesbian voters in the country, it is worth noting that this 5% was only slightly behind the number of Hispanic voters and higher than some of the other core constituencies of the Democratic Party.

2. There is considerable concern in our community that gays and lesbians, although they were clearly part of the Clinton-Gore base, are not represented accordingly in this Administration. In fact, there has not been a single PAS level appointment of a gay or lesbian official in more than four years. There is not even an openly gay or lesbian director of a White House staff office.

3. It is not lost on our community that within hours of taking power in the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Tony Blair appointed an openly gay Cabinet minister. How do the national gay and lesbian organizations which have been trying to work with your Administration explain this to our members across the country?

As part of your stated desire to make your Administration "look like America," it is vitally important that the gay and lesbian community be represented in significant positions and appropriate numbers. We know that you are committed to fairness and that his oversight will be rectified.

The Board of Directors
Gay and Lesbian Victory
Fund



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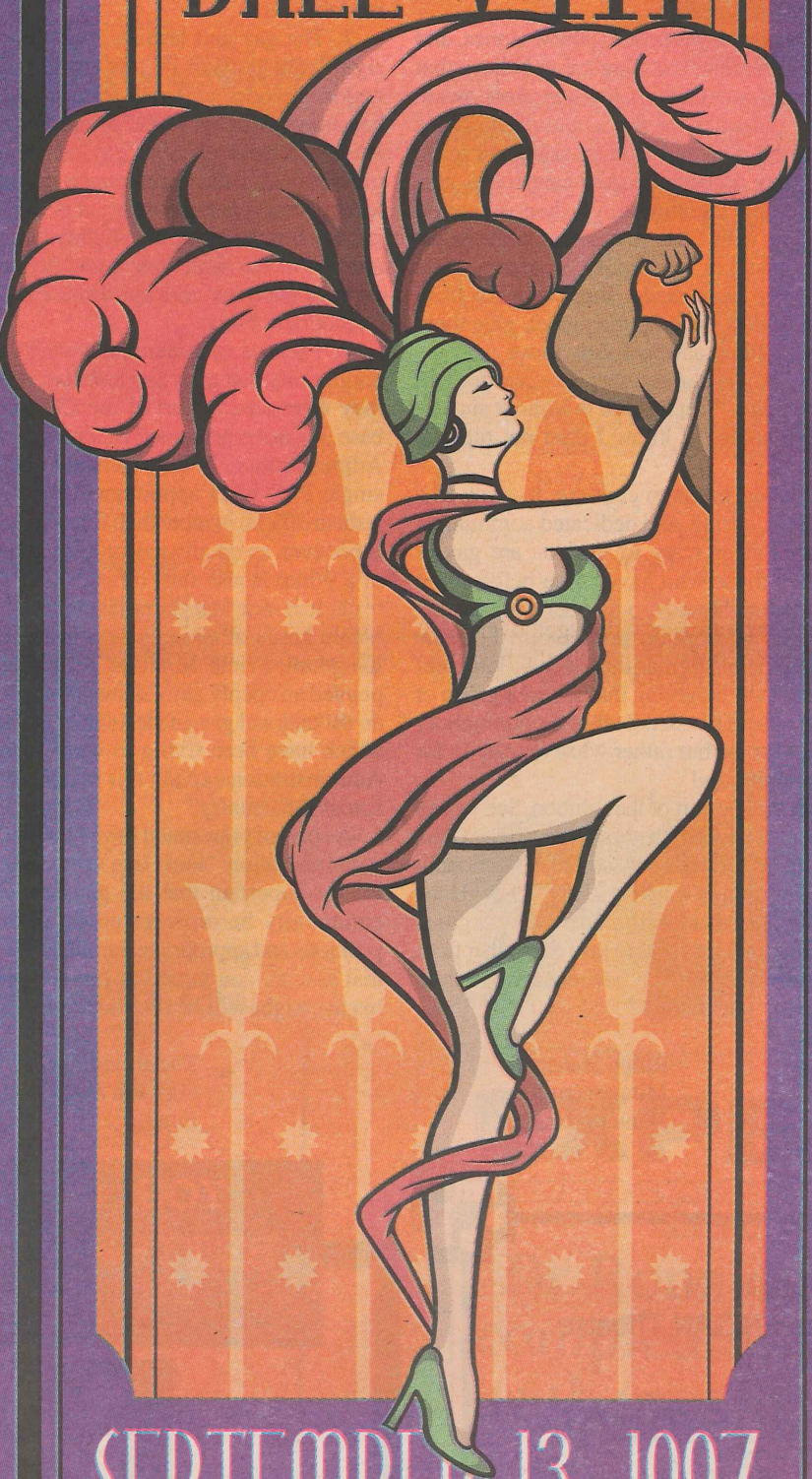
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ARTFUL LIVING

QUEERLY SUBURBAN

Not all gays and lesbians live downtown. There are good reasons for choosing life in the Central Florida 'burbs.

BY KIMBOO YORK

Perfect lawns. Lower crime rates. Back-yard barbecues with the neighbors. Feeling far from the hustle and bustle and gas fumes of downtown. Ahhhh, suburbia!

The image many people have of cities these days is that of downtowns in renaissance. In Orlando, house values are soaring in neighborhoods like Thornton Park, Delany, and Eola Heights, and it seems as if everyone is trying to move as close to the intersection of Virginia and Mills as geography allows. In Tampa, there is no residential downtown, but people are fighting over houses in 'The Heights,' the collection of closeknit, older housing developments with quaint charm and downtown proximity. But even if everyone wanted to live near the pulse of the city, not everyone

could—and that leaves a massive number of gays and lesbians living somewhere else. A significant portion choose to live in the suburbs.

"I have a positive history in the suburbs," said Maggie Kerrigan, a licensed massage therapist in the Orlando area who bought a house in the suburbs when she moved here with her wife in 1993. "We were looking for space, greenery, and a quiet neighborhood. Our physical environment is our priority, and previous experience showed us that we like living in the suburbs."

The suburbs, the outlying areas of any metropolitan city

that are comprised of mostly residential neighborhoods, are the heirs of the 'track homes' of the late 40s and 50s. However, the planned unit developments (PUDs) of today would look like Utopia to the track home inhabitant of way back when: house sizes have gone up (many early suburbs had homes of 1000 sq. ft. or less), house designs have become more attractive, and landscaping has gotten downright elaborate.

And that is not all that has changed over the years. Formally the bastion of heterosexual couples and their broods, the suburbs have become—almost invisibly—a haven for gays and

lesbians.

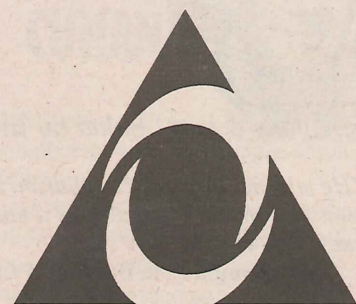
There has not been a real increase or decrease in the number of gays and lesbians who live in the suburbs over the last few decades. What has changed over the years, though, is the visibility of gays and lesbians.

"There is more acceptance of homosexuality in the suburbs than we have been led to believe. There are a lot of gays out there, living their lives just like everyone else. Recently, I went to a birthday party for a lesbian client I had helped buy a house in Lake Mary several years ago, and I was amazed by the number of straight neighbors who dropped by. It was just a normal, neighborhood party," said John Bergstrom, a Realtor in Orlando.

Gays and lesbians who live in the 'burbs move there for the same reasons straights do. In fact, until the last decade or so, it was often the only nice place to live. For many years both downtown Orlando and downtown Tampa were business districts with unsavory nighttime reputations. Living in such troubled waters was ill-advised for straights as well as gays and lesbians, and it was not until city and county governments stepped in with tax monies and tax breaks in attempts at 'urban renewal' that living downtown became profitable and chic.

These days, the number of

Continued Page 34



AMERICA ONLINE

GAY
ON AOL

Is the most
venerable internet
service an
invaluable gay
and lesbian
resource, or a
gateway to
trouble?

BY KEN KUNDIS

Since the advent of the personal computer, and more importantly, the modem, pundits have been trumpeting the disintegration of interpersonal contact. According to nay-sayers, by connecting a computer, via phone lines, to millions of other computers and limitless information, the need for real face-to-face contact—of living breathing interaction—has become progressively less necessary. They warn of a time when the entire population will be holed up in their homes working, shopping, interacting, and even having sex via computer lines. So with the

Continued Page 33

OVER IT... THE LIST

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Realtor JOHN BERGSTROM (front left) with partner KEN HARPER and neighbors at their Winter Park home.



WaterCress

Salad by Jim Crescitelli

"He tells me he practices nudism. I ask him: how much practice does it take to know how to strip?"

— Georgia Pine Barrens, *A Life Lived*

GLCS STAGED A GARAGE SALE recently, and what a gift that was for us! We managed to clear our house of extraneous objects d'art, and take a tax deduction as well! We made several trips to the GLCS offices (getting back into shape, thank you very much!) with boxes of things, and were we ever thrilled! We have

all this room at home now, room enough for new junk! I can't wait to start going to garage sales again.

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE OLDER... We just donated a lovely sofa and loveseat to Catholic Charities, two pieces of furniture whose blossom-bedecked beige 1985 Herculon had long become tedious. We replaced them with items awash in character! Get this, you'll love it: the couch is a three-piece Danish corner sectional from 1960, covered in a nubby goldish fabric from 1980. There are

two swiveling easy chairs from the same glorious era, covered in contrasting earth tones. I tell you, these pieces breathe character! Jackie Kennedy herself would have been proud to plant herself atop them! Now when you come into our house you'll feel like you're on the set of *The Patty Duke Show* (I'm Patty; Kirk is sensible Cathy) And isn't that how a home should be? We are also looking for a kidney—or amoeba—shaped coffee table, preferably with a hole or two cut out, and some floor-to-ceiling pole lamps.

JACQUELINE HARRINGTON is in charge of Key West's WomynFest this year, and a more delightful woman (womyn?) you'll be hard-pressed to meet. I had the pleasure of speaking with her at the IGLTA familiarization expo on the island this year, and she told me how much she enjoyed *Watermark* (Naturally I had to press her and ascertain that she was a fan of this column as well). Jacqueline also enjoys "Modern Manners," that etiquette column by Robin Ashe, and says that she enjoys "the big old dyke's" sage advice. So, for all those of us wondering just *who* Robin Ashe is, there's an opinion for you...

HERNE'S HOLLOW, on Hillcrest just east of Mills, has just been purchased by Jack Greeney, a friend. The shop features accessories having to do with magic and witchcraft and spell-casting, which means you probably won't find a backyard-sized statue of the Virgin Mary for sale, or lucite rosary beads. What you *will* find is a host of interesting items presided over by a charming and knowl-

edgeable staff. Be nice, though, because with all those batwings and newts' eyes surrounding you, you don't want to get on their evil side. Stop in to say hello; tell Jack I sent 'cha.

PINK FLAMINGOS has been re-released, and you'll recall our having seen it down in Key West. Well, do you know that it was playing at the Enzian? No doubt many of you saw it, and I ask myself: Do I need to ever see it again? The answer is emphatically, unequivocally *no*. The first time I saw it was for its shock value; the second was to watch for scenes I may have

missed; the third was out of curiosity; and the fourth was the aforementioned viewing at the Atlantic Shores. Rex Reed, who reviewed the movie at the time (1974), wondered, "who are these people? Where do they go when the sun goes down?" Seeing it today, I must agree

REX REED, WHO REVIEWED THE MOVIE AT THE TIME (1974), WONDERED, "WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? WHERE DO THEY GO WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN?" SEEING IT TODAY, I MUST AGREE WITH HIM.

with him. The chicken scene, the couch scene, the infamous end scene, the barbecue, the "singer,"... It's like director John Waters filmed his most forbidden, most innermost thoughts, things nice people don't even think about, let alone do. I guess everybody deserves at least one viewing, but by the fourth we were screaming and covering our eyes and falling out of our chairs like lunatics. On the other hand, his *Female Trouble* is a much better movie, and one I highly recommend. Divine really gives a tour de force performance, and deserved an Oscar nomination. Well, I think so anyway. See it and tell me you don't agree!

I REMEMBERED MORE STARS that I've met: Fran Drescher, television's Nanny; and Dee Dee Kennibrew, a member of the Crystals (Her voice appears in the background of "Da Doo Ron Ron" and "Then He Kissed Me"). So that's it, no more, I promise!

LISA TALMADGE sneaked off to Washington D.C. to live, and nobody told me! Was I supposed to go to the goodbye party or something? The dog must have eaten my invitation, and I don't even own a pet. The Orlando community will sorely miss her, notably because of her diligence in producing Lisa's List, a compendium of gay-friendly candidates which appears during election season. I hear Lisa will only be gone for three years, and that Lisa's List will make an appearance for the year 2000 elections. And, of course, those will be here before we know it.

NEXT TIME... in honor of the third anniversary of *Watermark*, I'll run a special column featuring some items that never made it into the first 50 editions of "Watercress," as well as some favorites. ♡

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ARTFUL LIVING

WOMENFEST SPLASHES BACK INTO KEY WEST

KEY WEST—For the fourth year in a row, Key West will be over-run by women from September 3 through the 9 as WomenFest

'97 breezes into town.

Beginning annually on the Wednesday following Labor Day, the lesbian-focused festival has become one of the most popular women's gatherings in the South in just under five years. In 1996, over 5000 attended the multi-day event featuring a film festival, games, dances, and a street fair.

Included in the line-up of activities are water and sand volleyball, scuba diving trips, trolley tours, and the infamous Wet T-Shirt Contest at the Atlantic Shores Resort. There will also be a large street fair featuring the Sisters for Brothers Blood Drive, also in its fourth year. This year the festival is welcoming new national sponsorship by both Coors Brewing Company and Girlfriends Magazine. Other sponsors include *Watermark*, *Out Magazine*, and American Airlines.

The WomenFest Golf Tournament, in support of the WomenFest Breast Cancer

Key West bars provide special entertainment during the annual WomenFest.

Fund, will be held on September 6, with a golf clinic taking place the previous day. Atlantic Shores Resort, host of the crowd-pleasing Wet T-shirt contest, will also have two Tea By The Sea Dances during the weekend evening hours. Simonton Court, with four swimming pools and a huge snack bar, is home of the WomenFest Pool Party. The renown dance club Epoch turns its tables and becomes the Isle of Lesbos nightly, with special events for WomenFest attendees.

Local sponsors host several special events for WomenFest as well, including Alexander's Guest House with their Brunch Fashion Show, Square One Restaurant with their exclusive Wine Tasting Dinner, and the Rainbow House with its yearly cocktail party. Many other of Key West's local attractions and businesses have jumped into WomenFest by offering discounts on admission and products. In addition, this year the festival will feature book signings and author's readings at various bookstores, a new Night of Comedy, and more.

The event is getting bigger every year, and women are encouraged to make travel and lodging reservations early. For information, call (305)296-4238 or check out <http://key-west.com/WomenFest>. ▽

ABC DEVELOPING TV MOVIE ON ANDREW CUNANAN

LOS ANGELES—ABC has jumped into development on a movie about alleged serial killer Andrew Cunanan.

Less than a month after Cunanan's death, the network has signed Avenue Pictures to create a drama that will focus on the 27-year-old man characterized as a gay gigolo by his mother.

An ABC spokesman declined to comment, but a source said the network will review the completed script before approving production.

"We'd like to do it as quickly as we can," said Avenue Chairman Cary Brokaw. "The intention by all concerned is not to make a headline-exploiting movie. It's a complicated and tragic story that we want to do justice by."

Cunanan killed himself July 23 inside a Miami Beach, Fla., houseboat. He was suspected of killing five men—including fashion designer Gianni Versace—in Minnesota, Illinois, New Jersey and Florida. ▽

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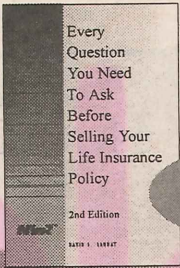
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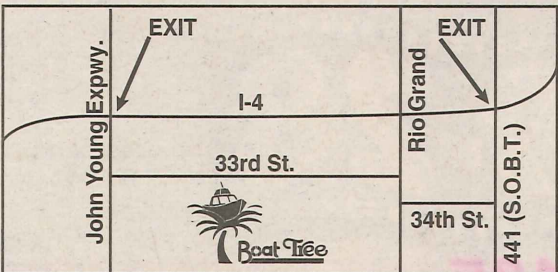


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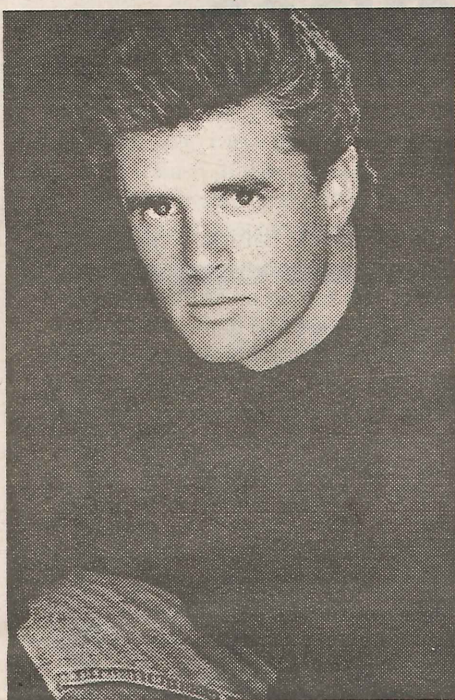
ARTFUL LIVING

A HETERO HERO

Actor and playwright Kevin O'Neill talks about his AIDS play, and about gay men.

Interview by Russell Scott

Kevin O'Neill is the author of *The Last Game*, an original one-act play about AIDS and its impact on a family unit. O'Neill, who grew up in Brevard County, has enjoyed success in modeling and acting, mostly in Los Angeles. *The Last Game* has the distinction of being one of the few AIDS plays written by a heterosexual man. I was curious to know what drew him to the material. I also wondered how a good-looking straight man per-



KEVIN O'NEILL: "I have no problem with gay men... as long as they respect my relationship with my wife."

ceived our community. So, we talked.

WATERMARK: Living in Los Angeles for many years, and being involved in the entertainment industry, you must have come into contact with, oh, at least one or two gays. Give me a little "homo-history" as it relates to your relationships with gay men and/or women.

KEVIN O'NEILL: Growing up in Merritt Island when I did, I really wasn't too aware or exposed to identifiable gay boys or girls. It was when I moved into the entertainment arena that I soon found myself meeting a great many gays. My wife and I have several close gay friends—both here in Orlando and in Los Angeles.

Have you ever been in a situation with a gay man that has left you confused about their behavior or intent?

Yes, I have. There have been several instances when I have been introduced to a gay man where I sensed that this person initially had a great deal of interest in me. On these occasions, when these particular men realized that I was straight, their interest came to a crashing and abrupt end. I felt as though these men totally dismissed whatever personal relationship could have developed between us once they thought that I was "unavailable" to them by virtue of my heterosexuality. These encounters left me with the sense that perhaps gay men are only interested in sexual relationships. The potential of just a good, close non-sexual friendship seemed to have little value to these guys. For awhile, I did feel upset and really hurt, but I continue to try and not judge an entire

group of people by the actions of a few.

So, Kevin, why and AIDS story? How did *The Last Game* come to life?

The story is based on a very personal experience that I went through several years ago. I saw what believed to be a close father-son relationship completely disintegrate when the father learned that his son had AIDS and was dying. I had so many unanswered questions. Was the silent treatment I was witnessing created out of the fact that the son not only had AIDS, but that he was also gay; or was this alienation just the product of the stigma of AIDS itself? Was the father just completely incapable of dealing with the impending loss of his one? The impact of this situation affected a great many people in my life, and because of this I was compelled to get the story down on paper.

Have you ever thought that your audiences might assume that you are gay, simply because of the AIDS aspect of this play?

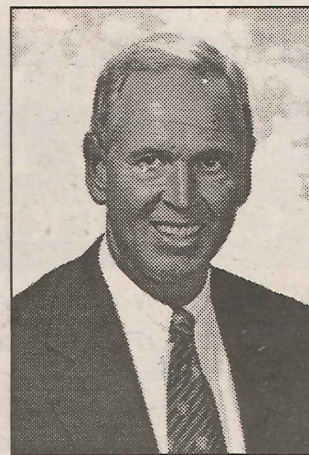
It really hadn't occurred to me until you asked. The most often misconception that I have been made aware of is that the audience assumes that the father in the piece is my real father—which is definitely not the case. My father is the complete antithesis of that character, and I feel as though if my real father were confronted with a similar situation, he would be as loving, accepting, and nurturing as he has always been. After all, the bottom line is that no matter what you are going through, you are still family. At least that's the way I was raised. ▽

The Last Game will be presented for one-performance only on Sunday, August 24, at 7 PM in the Ann Giles Densch Theatre, a part of the Orlando Civic Theatre Complex. \$20 admission includes the performance, a question-and-answer session with the actors, and a post-play reception. Call the Civic at (407) 896-7365 to purchase tickets. All proceeds benefit CENTUAR.



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IN REVIEW

IF I STAY MOORE
IF I FATALE

Movie reviews by David Almeida

G. I. JANE (Demi Moore, Anne Bancroft): Maybe it's because I'm gay, but I just don't get the concept of the armed forces (outside of "Join up so we can abuse you."). Anyway, Bancroft is a Congresswoman who decides to rattle a few Washington cages by insisting on integration of the sexes in combat training. Moore is the perfect guinea pig: she can possibly survive the rigorous program, and still look pretty on camera when the project gets media attention. Moore, who simply wants the combat experience to advance her career, gladly

accepts her special appointment, and is put to the test in order to survive.

Moore's gruff acting style blends perfectly with the film's overwhelmingly butch atmosphere. Bancroft is a delight in her first role in years that doesn't have her playing a dowdy mother wearing an apron. Though there is never a doubt as to whether Moore will make it through, the film still delivers a few surprises (and oddly enough, the occasional laugh) that I'm as surprised as anyone to say satisfied me. **QUEER QUOTIENT:** For the womyn who love a buzz-cut, Moore is

hot stuff no matter what she does. The only thing I couldn't get past was worrying about her implants in the more physical segments.



COP LAND (Sylvester Stallone, Robert DeNiro, Harvey Keitel, Ray Liotta): Brace yourselves: Sylvester Stallone can now be called an Actor. He plays the well-meaning Sheriff of Garrison, NJ, a small town occupied by policemen and their families trying to escape the ills of New York City. However, the town is not without its own

darker side: Resident NYPD lieutenant Keitel has become a godfather to the town through his connections with the mob. As job protection, Stallone turns a deaf ear to Keitel, the other corrupt cops, and their shady dealings. Internal Investigator DeNiro approaches Stallone to help crack a case which could topple Keitel's whole empire. Stallone is unwilling to participate at first, but eventually realizes that his silence makes him an accessory to the crimes, and he must speak up for what is right.

The film insists on treating its audience with intelligence as its subtly

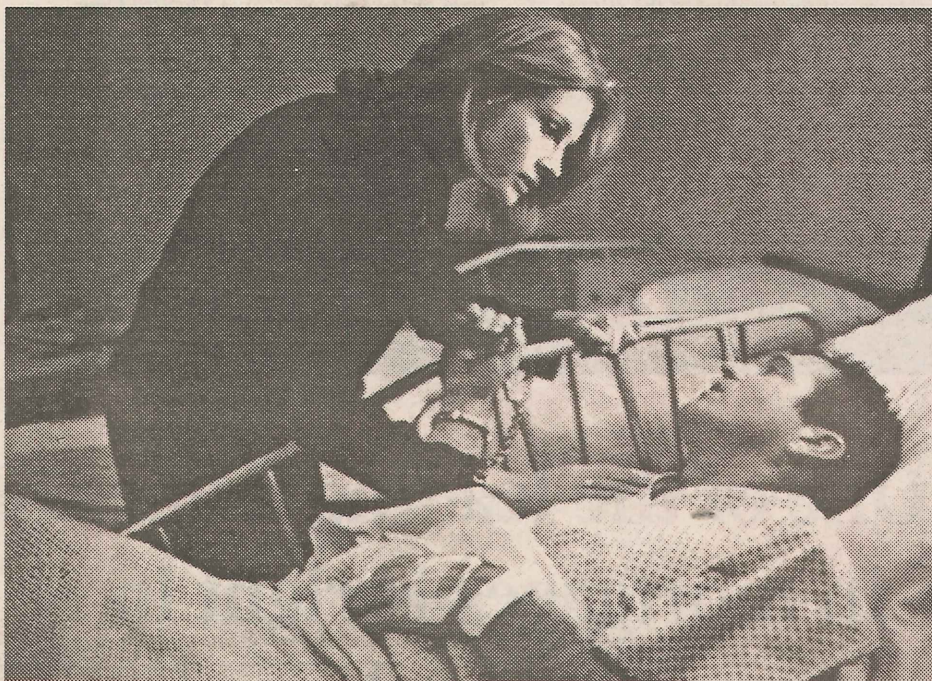
DEEP INSIDE
HOLLYWOOD

by Miss Paige Turner

ELLEN LOSES GAY FRIENDS

As expected, there are going to be a few changes in Ellen Morgan's life when *Ellen* returns to ABC this fall. The most significant change will be the loss of the show's gay couple, Barrett and Peter (played by JACK PLOTNICK and PATRICK BRISTOW, respectively). Bristow has been cast in his own series this fall on the UPN network entitled *Head Over Heels*. In the new series, Bristow is a gay man named Ian who runs a dating service in fashionable South Beach, Florida. Like TONY RANDALL's character in the early-1980s series *Love, Sidney*, Ian has chosen to live a celibate life, a decision which should make life easier for UPN executives in the wake of the recent Disney

boycotts. Plotnick, Bristow's charming (and usually silent) boyfriend on *Ellen* was busy last season on MTV's sketch-comedy showcase *The Jenny McCarthy Show*: With McCarthy moving to her own prime-time series this fall, Plotnick has been busy acting in the feature film *Gods And Monsters* (opposite stars SIR IAN MCKELLAN and BRENDAN FRASER). He also has a big role in the *CARROT TOP* movie due in theaters later this year. Bristow will be back for a few episodes of *Ellen* this season, and Plotnick told me that he may also be back for an episode or two. Whatever direction the show takes this season, the exposure for both Bristow and Plotnick has nonetheless been useful in developing even better lives beyond *Ellen*.



Conspiracy Theory: JULIA ROBERTS and MEL GIBSON get paranoid.

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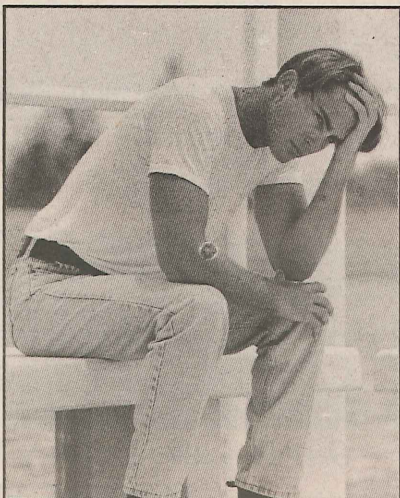
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IN REVIEW

demarks Stallone's transformation from *laissez faire* sheriff to responsible citizen. Stallone, overweight and understated, gives the best performance of his career. The almost all-star supporting cast (including Janeane Garofolo, Robert Patrick, and Cathy Moriarty) contribute great clarity within each of their own subplots to reinforce to the film's theme. Liotta does a particularly commendable job as Stallone's not-entirely-blameless best friend. Writer-director James Mangold's style is reminiscent of Coppola and Scorsese, yet there is no cheap mimicry here. *Cop*

Land is a brilliantly subtle examination of corruption, and Stallone's performance makes this movie a must-see.



CONSPIRACY THEORY (Mel Gibson, Julia Roberts): Gibson is a paranoid New York cab driver, whose crackpot theories of international conspiracy may not be too far off the mark. After being kidnapped and tortured, he turns to justice worker Roberts for help in uncovering which of his hypotheses might have hit a nerve. Gibson's penchant for playing psychos is elevated to a new level

as his character struggles to regain his sanity. The story is engaging, the action is well-filmed, and Roberts is her ever-affable self. Whereas there isn't anything particularly bad about the film, it doesn't quite possess anything that distinguishes it either. It's good. Most people will probably like it. So see it already.



SPAWN (Michael Jai White, Martin Sheen, John Leguizamo): In this badly botched comic book film, a murdered assassin is resurrected from Hell in order to lead Satan's army to conquer the world. Instead, he decides to seek revenge on both the devil and his boss (Sheen) who arranged his murder. The art direction and special effects are brilliant; everything else sucks. The story is incoherent, the lead character is completely dislikable, and the performances are hideously hammy. Movies

Guide:

"You go, girl!"



"Like buttah."



"Like margarine."



"Hated it!"



like *Spawn* make me want to spew. QQ: Leguizamo, best known as Chi Chi Rodriguez in *To Wong Foo*, does nothing to further his career as the Clown, the devil's goofy henchman. He may have done well at playing gay, but sadly, he seems to be having more fun playing obnoxiously gross.



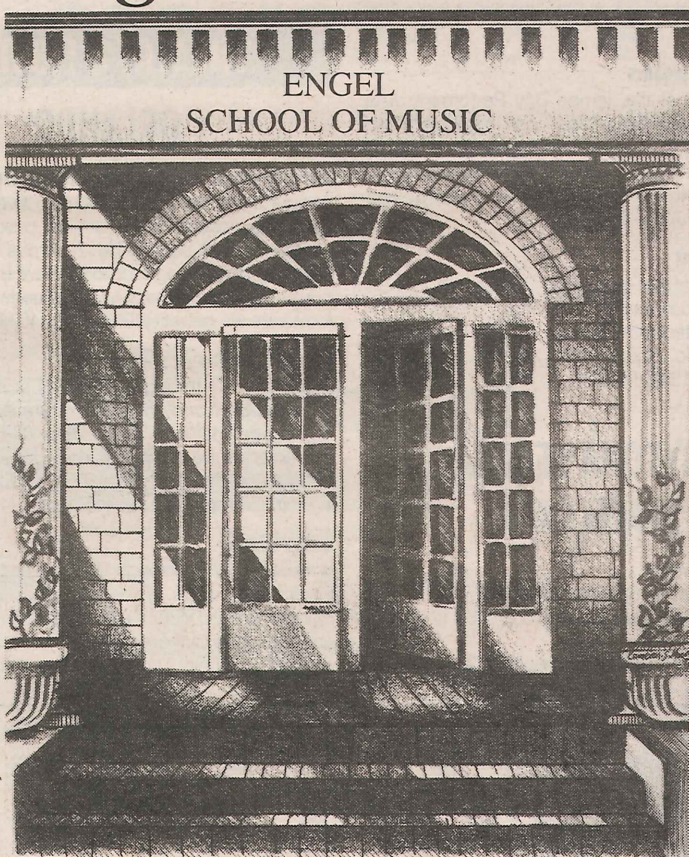
THE NEA BATTLE CONTINUES

MICHELLE HANDELMAN is very unhappy about the recent exposure her documentary *BloodSisters* has received. In an effort to damage the reputation of the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA), the conservative American Family Association (AFA) sent clips of *BloodSisters* and Barbara Hammer's *Nitrate Kisses* on videotape to every member of Congress. Both lesbian-themed films were NEA-funded and contain explicit material. The AFA presented scenes from the films out of

context in an effort to get the NEA funding canceled during the recent budget battle. Women Make Movies and Canyon Cinema, the independent companies that distributed the two films, already lost their NEA funding earlier this year due to the controversial nature of the films they represent. The NEA has been under nearly constant attack for years, though this latest tactic has only increased the tension for government-funded artists. Handelman has called the unauthorized edits "cultural rape" and even

Continued Page 38

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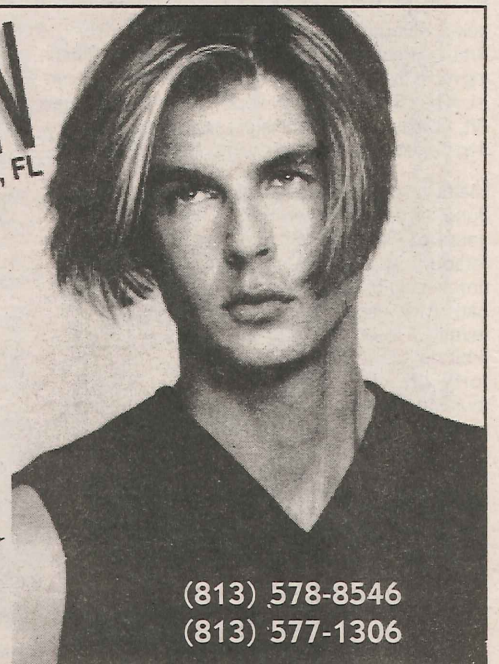
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TAMPA BAY

Journal of My Life - Patrick A. Kranz: Various Media

September 5 through 30 at the Positive Expressions Gallery in Gulfport. This show features watercolors, acrylics, pen & ink, and mixed media work in a 'therapy journal form,' dealing with divorce, living with HIV, being a father, and coming out, among other things. (813)384-9305.

Niko Hadjikyriakos: Prints

July 20 through September 21 at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg. A retrospective exhibition featuring more than thirty works by the esteemed Greek artist. A key figure in the development of Modern Greek Art, Ghikas introduced his country to many international artistic styles and movements. (813)896-2667.

Chaim Gross: Fantasy Drawings and Sculptures

June 1 through September 21 at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg. The more intimate side of American artist Gross is revealed in an exhibition of nearly forty drawings, four watercolors, seven wood and bronze sculptures and



two sketchbooks. (813)896-2667.

CONCERTS & MUSIC

ORLANDO

Sounds of Summer

Thursday, August 21 at the Harry P. Leu Gardens. The Orlando Philharmonic chamber music series in the Garden House program V features Kodaly's Duo for Violin and Cello, Op. 7 and Schubert's Octet in F for Strings and Winds, D. 803. If that means something to you, this is where you want to be. Show your support for local classical music events! (407)647-8525.

DAYTONA BEACH/ SPACECOAST

Suzanne Westenhoefer

Friday, September 12 at the Chapman Root Hall Auditorium, Museum of Arts and Sciences. The well known, well loved comedienne returns to Central Florida with her special brand of humor and her trademarked hair. Out and proud, her hilarious routines have earned her fans all over the world. (904)736-4631.

TAMPA BAY/GULF COAST

Summer Music Series, featuring Marilyn Michael-Evans, Mezzo-Soprano

August 24 at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg. Acclaimed mezzo-soprano Marilyn Michael-Evans concludes the summer music series, performing art songs by Schubert, Debussy, Brahms, and Faure, as well as Broadway show tunes from *The King and I* and *Showboat*. Join this Sunday tradition in the Marly Room, with a special reception in the Membership Garden. (813)896-2667.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ORLANDO

GLCS 10th Anniversary Celebration

August 25 at GLCS, 7 PM. Join in the party as the most visible gay organization in Orlando turns 10. There will be a special cake-cutting ceremony and get together, with speeches by current board members. (407)425-4527.

Auditions for Orlando Gay Chorus

August 27 and September 3 at the Unitarian Church. Auditions for their Holiday Concert. (407)839-0161.

World TeamTennis All-Star Smash Hits

September 10 at the Disney Wide World of Sports complex. Tennis legend Billie Jean King and music superstar Elton John host a night of all-star tennis with Pete Sampras, Andre

SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER gives a comic twist to Daytona Beach on September 12.

Agassi, Iva Majoli, Mary Pierce and more. All proceeds from the one-night event benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation, an international non-profit organization funding direct patient care services and prevention education. A percentage of the proceeds will also stay in Florida, benefiting local AIDS service organizations. (407)839-3900.

GLCS/PFLAG Cookout

September 12 at the Lebanese-Serian Club in the ViMi. A joint production featuring the Pleasure Island Comedy Warehouse Players and DJ Mark Cady. Lots of food, fun, and friends. A time to feel good about all GLCS and PFLAG have done for the community. (407)425-4527.

Love Takes Action: The PFLAG Family Adventure

September 12 through 14 at the Clarion Plaza Hotel. The sixteenth annual PFLAG conference comes to town with special programs, workshops, and a massive business/organizations expo. This annual get together for parents and friends of lesbians and gays features discussions on upcoming legislation, political subjects, and interpersonal issues. (202)638-4200.

Headdress Ball VIII

September 13 at the Renaissance Orlando Resort. Join in a celebration of life at one of Central Florida's premiere high-energy gala evenings. This event showcases the talents of top designers and the country's most outrageous female impersonators. Benefits the Hope and Help Center. (407)645-2577.

TAMPA BAY

Gay Men, Sex and Dating in the 90's

August 22 at the University of Tampa Lecture Hall 1. A free seminar presented by the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Tampa Bay. Guest speakers Dr. Anthony Quaglieri and James Straton, M.A. will discuss the in's and out's, the do's and don'ts, and the strategies for successful, healthy dating in the 90s. (813)273-8919.

An Evening of Elegance

September 13 at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. An opulent fund-raiser combining silent and live auctions with headliner entertainment by Diane Schuur and the Count Basie Orchestra. There will also be gaming tables, an array of food and a cigar and martini bar. (813)222-STAR.

Golf Tournament

September 13 at the Rocky Point Golf Course. Francis House, Inc., a day respite for children and adults infected or affected with HIV/AIDS, is offering an afternoon golf clinic. Sponsored by Southern Country Tampa Bay. (813)968-9257.

DAYTONA BEACH/ SPACECOAST

Care Team Training

September 6 at the Stewart Memorial United Methodist Church. A care team is a group of 6 - 12 people



Artist PATRICK A. KRANZ is featured at Positive Expressions through September.

who provide practical, emotional, and spiritual support for those living with HIV/AIDS. Attendance at this training session will qualify interested individuals to participate in the Care Team Network of Volusia/Flagler Counties. (904)255-5569, ext. 13 or (904)255-8704.

AT LARGE

WomenFest Key West '97

September 3 through 9 in Key West. The women are coming! Seven sunfilled days and tropical nights full of sports, concerts, a film festival, and more. Join in as women take over Key West for once, with sunset cruising, gallery browsing, wine tasting and shopping at the Street Fair. One of the fastest growing women's festivals in the South expects over 5000 attendees this year, and features many, many events and national sponsorship. (305)296-4238.

THEATRE & MOVIES

ORLANDO

The Last Game: An Uncommon AIDS Story

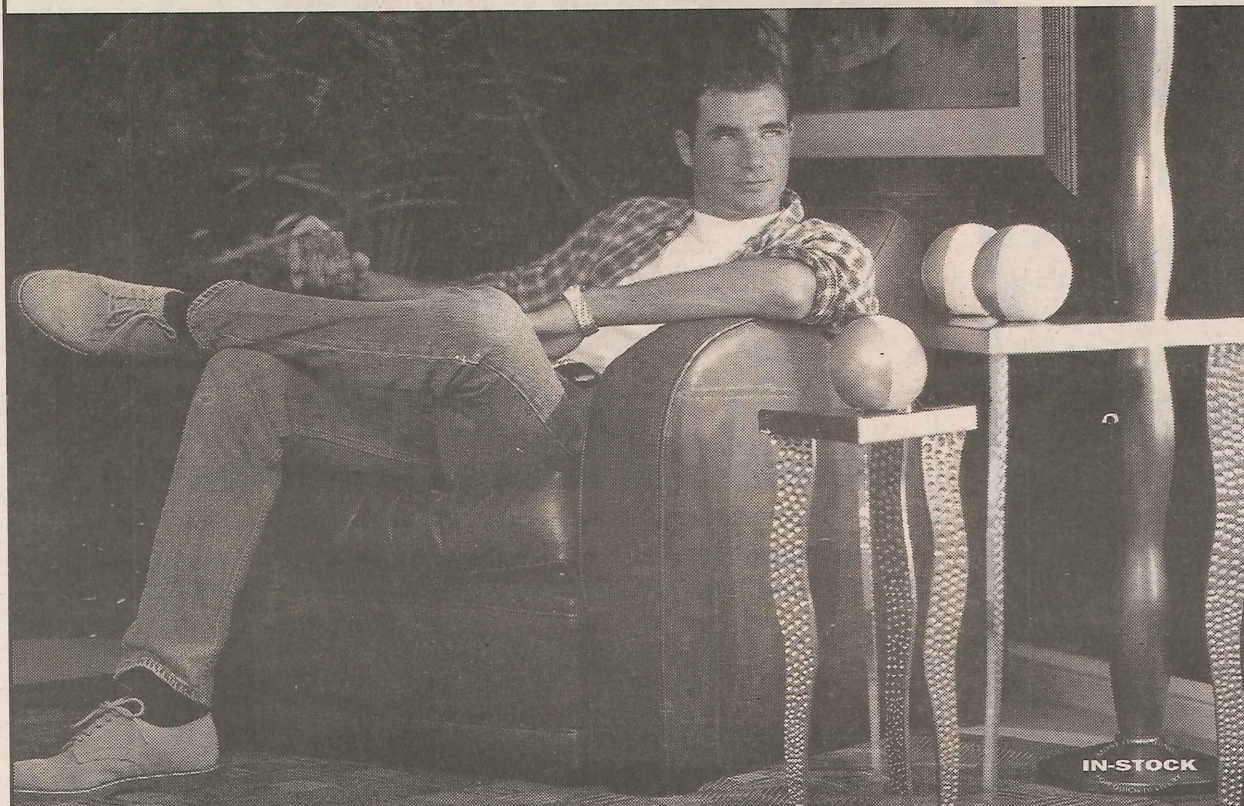
August 24 at the Civic Theatres. Olive Branch Productions presents the premiere production of an original one-act play by Kevin James O'Neill. It tells the story of a younger brother "sent in the save the most important game of all." Proceeds from this performance will benefit CENTUAR. (407)896-7365.

Life in Other People's Shoes

September 11 through October 5 at the Civic Theatres. Off-beat and on target, in-tune and slightly off-key, this original, one-woman tour de force is a multi character musical cabaret loaded with witty lyrics, joyful meddies and poignant monologues. Featuring the incomparable Leslie Carrara. (407)896-7365.

Union Cinema

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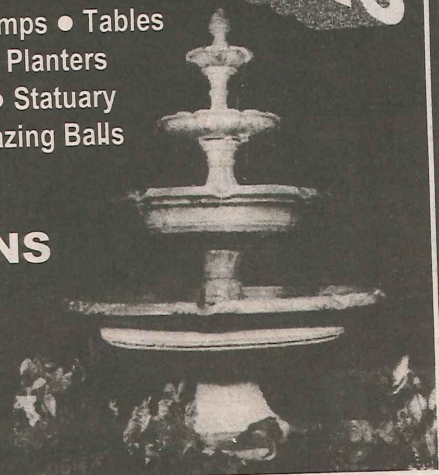
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12 Noon
with a silent auction to be
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AUGUST 25, 1997
MONDAY

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FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION ON THESE OR OTHER EVENTS, CALL 407-425-GLCS

The GLCS Center has been serving the Orlando Les-Bi-Gay Community for 10 years by offering a resource library, telephone referrals, counseling services, discussion and support groups, and Pride Events.
For information or to become a volunteer, call 425-GLCS

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DIVERSITY COALITION

Meets regularly to promote and demonstrate a unified commitment towards understanding and cooperation among diverse individuals within our community. Contact Rich Townsend at (904)672-1402 or (904)673-9423.

GAY/BI-MARRIED MEN RAP GROUP

Last Monday of the month at 7:30PM for peer counseling & support. Call Jean-Paul, (407)777-9833.

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL TEEN SUPPORT GROUP

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HOPE MCC

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ORLANDO

BEARS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

A group of big, hairy guys and their admirers. meetings are the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4 PM at the Full Moon Saloon. Sponsors annual Bear Bust each October. (407) 896-0239.

BIWAYS

A community gathering for bisexuals, our families, our friends, and our lovers. Mondays at 7PM at GLCS. (407)843-4297.

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every Friday at Joy MCC, beginning at 7PM. Joy MCC and the GLCS present good, old-fashioned church bingo. Join in for food, fun, and a few surprises too! (407)425-4527.

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DIGNITY/ORLANDO

Gay Catholic support group. Meets for prayer in the Roman Catholic tradition at GLCS on Tuesday evenings at 8PM. Sundays, 7:30PM. GLCS Center. (407)425-4527 or page 1-800-759-7243, PIN 96294.

ELLEN'S FRIENDS: BEING OUT IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

A discussion group for womyn of all ages. Meets first and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at GLCS. (407)425-4527.

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH: EVENSONG

Sundays at 4 PM at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Audubon Park. A special Evensong service where everyone is invited. A social hour of coffee, teas, and specialty

desserts will follow. (407)331-7375.

FAMILY VALUES

Gay/lesbian radio on 91.5 FM. Talk, music, news, interviews, community events. Thursdays, 9-10PM. (407)646-2915 or 2241.

FEMINIST FICTION COLLECTIVE

Open to wimmim of all ages interested in reading and discussing lesbian/womyns fiction. 2nd Monday of every month at GLCS at 7:30 PM. (407)841-6860.

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Independent short films at Sapphire Super Club. Every Monday at 7 PM. Call (407)839-6045.

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Orlando's fun bowling league. Fair Lanes, Indian Hills. Saturdays, 7PM. (407)679-0655.

GAY & LESBIAN ORLANDO WATER SKIERS (GLOWS)

Orlando water ski headquarters for bi, gay, and lesbians. Daily skiing adventures during daylight savings time. Beginners and non-skiers welcome. Lots of fun equip. avail.: wakeboard, compress. board, Hydrosides, disks, trick skies, slalom, and traditional skis. Contact Gary (407)679-0507.

GAYSKATE

Semoran Skateway, Casselberry. Sponsored by GLCS. 2nd & 4th Mondays, 9:15-11:30PM. \$5 includes skate rental (\$4 for GLCS members). (407)425-4527.

THE GROUP FOR THE LIVING

A spiritual recovery group for people with HIV. Tuesdays, 7:30-9PM, AIDS Resource Alliance Building. (407)894-2233 or (407)647-7832.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS OF ORLANDO

A gay Asian-American social group for singles and couples. Friendly pot luck dinners, monthly activities, and more. All races are welcome. For dates and times or other information, please contact us. Donny at (407)370-4502. E-mail: I.F.Orlando@juno.com. Visit our

web site at www.magicnet.net/~rwh.

JOY MCC WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays: 9:15AM, 11AM & 7:15PM. (407)894-1081.

LESBIANS CHOOSING CHILDREN

A support/discussion group for lesbians who are considering attempting pregnancy through donor insemination. Meets 4th Thursday of the month at 7PM at GLCS Center. (407)841-7203.

LUCKY LADIES BOWLING

Thursdays, 6:30PM at Fair Lanes in Indian Hills. (407)293-8849.

MENS' COMING OUT GROUP

Weekly support/discussion group for gay men of all ages who are beginning and initiating their coming out process. Wednesdays at 7:30 PM at GLCS. (407)425-4527.

MONDAY NIGHT PLAYREADING SERIES

on the Civic Theatre's MainStage at 8PM. (407)896-7365.

ORANGE BLOSSOM BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Tuesdays, 9PM at Bowl America, Winter Park. All interested teams and individuals call Cedrick Lee at (407) 895-3781.

ORANGE BLOSSOM TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Round Robin tennis. 2nd & 4th Sunday each month at 11AM at the Orlando Tennis Center. (407)895-3722.

ORLANDO FRONTRUNNERS

Meets at red pagoda, Lake Eola. Mondays, 6:30PM; Wednesdays, 7:30PM; Saturdays, 9AM. (407)382-6011.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

On-going therapy group, lead by a trained therapist, for straight spouses of homosexuals and bisexuals. (407)629-7521.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

12:30PM every Saturday at GLCS.

PFLAG

General meeting every third Wednesday of



PAST OUT

GAY & LESBIAN HISTORY

by David Bianco

Who was Leonard Matlovich?

Long before Keith Meinhold, Tracy Thorne, and Zoe Dunning dominated the gays-in-the-military headlines, Sergeant Leonard Matlovich brought attention to the military's policies of discharging homosexuals, whatever their service record.

The son of a career Air Force serviceman, Matlovich joined his father's branch of the service a year out of high school, in 1963, and immediately volunteered to go to Vietnam. In the year before he was granted his request, he became involved in Republican politics, campaigning for ultraconservative presidential candidate Barry Goldwater. Despite his Catholic faith and conservative politics, Matlovich's private sexual thoughts were exclusively towards other men.

His service in Vietnam was exemplary by all accounts, winning him both a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart - but contrary to military expectations, he continued to find himself drawn to his fellow servicemen. But Matlovich continued struggling with gay feelings,

which became politicized after he began teaching racial sensitivity courses to servicemembers as part of the military's efforts to combat racism among the troops. At one point, he asked his students who the most discriminated-against group in

America were, and when they answered "blacks" or "Jews," he wrote the word "homosexuals." Intent on doing "research," Matlovich went to a local gay bar one evening, met another man, and had his first sexual experience.

Increasingly, Matlovich wanted

to integrate his burgeoning homosexuality with his loyalty to the armed services. He also recognized that his medals and his all-American background made him an idea test case in a court challenge to the ban on openly gay servicemembers. So he contacted Franklin Kameny, a long-time D.C. gay activist.

In March, 1975, Matlovich delivered a letter to his superior officer in which he indicated that "my sexual preferences are homosexual as opposed to heterosexual" and urged a waiver of the military's anti-gay policies in light of his continuing abilities to perform his duties.

THE REACTION OF MANY SERVICEMEMBERS WAS DISBELIEF, AS EXPRESSED BY THE SERGEANT WHO TOLD MATLOVICH, "YOU CAN'T HAVE A PURPLE HEART AND A BRONZE STAR AND SUCK COCK."

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the month at 7:30PM at a downtown Orlando location. (407)236-9177.

PRIME TIMERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

A social & support group for gay & bisexual men over 50 & younger men who admire them. Meets last Saturday of the month at 3PM at Parliament House, in the theater area. (407) 672-5963.

QUEERS EAT TOO(QE2)

QE2 is open to anyone who likes to eat out and enjoys a dining and social experience. QE2 is taking a break.

RAINBOW CONNECTION OF ORLANDO

Social/discussion group for 18 to 25-year-old gays, lesbians & bisexuals. Thursdays, 7:30PM GLCS Center. (407)843-4297.

RAINBOW DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Meet every 4th Monday. Orlando Public Library, 7PM. (407)236-9476.

READING GROUP

at Out & About Books. (407)896-0204.

SOCIAL SINGLES

A discussion & social group for men & women 18 to 118 who are not in a committed relationship. Meets every Monday at 7:30PM at the GLCS Center. (407)425-4527.

SOUTHERN COUNTRY ORLANDO COOKOUT

Every Sunday from 4 - 6 PM at the Full Moon Saloon. Call (407)895-5940 for info.

SOUTHERN COUNTRY DANCE LESSONS

Wednesdays and Saturdays at Full Moon Saloon, 8:30 PM.

TEAM GLCS

A bicycling team of all ages and ability levels that formed in January 1997 to promote cycling and participate in organized cycling events. Sponsored by GLCS and comprised of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and gay-supportive riders. All welcome. (407)425-4527.

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UCF GLBSU

Room 101, Social Work Trailer, 9PM, Tues-

days. (407)648-0057.

WOMYN OF GLCS

Come join the fun and bring a friend or 6. Every Wednesday at 7:30PM at GLCS. (407)843-4297 or (407)872-8924 (digital pager).

WOMEN OUTDOOR ADVENTURERS' CLUB

4th Sunday. Meets/plans/plays outdoors. (407)677-7634.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Orlando Festival Park. Sundays, 3PM. (407)438-9777.

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FMI, please call: in Hillsborough, (813)238-0694; in Pinellas, (813)531-3701.

BOAT & SCUBA WEST

meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 8PM at the Days Inn St. Petersburg. (813)441-4350.

DIGNITY OF TAMPA BAY

Call for dates, times and places. (813)238-2868.

DELTA PI THETA

Offering Brandon area gays, lesbians, and bisexuals a chance to network and build friendships. Meets Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday every week at different locations. Call Carl Schulz (813)651-3653.

ENCHANTE

Transsexual support group meets monthly. Separate crossdresser support group forming. (813)845-0284.

F.A.C.T. AND FICTION WORKSHOP

meets Thursdays at 6 PM. A writers workshop designed for PLWAs. (813)327-2969.

FRONT RUNNERS

Meets every Saturday in Old Hyde Park Village at the fountain at 9AM and every Wednesday at 6:30PM at Bayshore/Howard. (813)891-7098.

GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER OF TAMPA BAY

Will be holding its monthly business meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 7

PM. Everyone is invited. (813)273-8919.

GAY SINGLES INTRODUCTION GROUP

for those seeking a monogamous relationship. Meets every other Sunday from 7 - 9 PM at MCC of Tampa. No fee. (813)249-6275 or (813)531-3701, anytime.

GAYSKATE

Tuesdays at 9PM at United Skates of America. (813)879-1525.

GREATER TAMPA BAY PRIDE

The general meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. (813)960-3022.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES: COMING-OUT SUPPORT GROUP

meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 8PM at Affinity Books and the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Unity-Progressive Prayer Center. Call Valerie, (813)505-0201 or Charles, (813)521-7579.

HIV/AIDS SPIRITUALITY SUPPORT GROUP

Sponsored by Works of Mercy, Catholic Coalition of People with AIDS. Meets every Thursday at 7PM in the Parish Center of Sacred Heart Church in Tampa. (813)237-3421.

HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE - HILLSBOROUGH

meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 7PM at the MC Film Festival in Tampa. (813)237-8769.

HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE - PINELLAS

meets on the 1st Thursday of each month, 7 PM at the Unitarian Church in Clearwater.

INTEGRITY OF TAMPA BAY

A gay/lesbian/bisexual support group within the Episcopal Church. Meets the first Sunday of each month at 6 PM at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church in Temple Terrace. All are welcome. (813)988-5283.

KING OF PEACE MCC

Services 10 AM Sundays; Prayer/Communion service 6:30 PM Thur. 3150 5th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. (813)323-5857.

THE LINE

Gay & Lesbian Crisis/Service of Tampa Bay, Inc. Phone volunteers 7PM to 11PM nightly, computerized system 11PM to 7PM. (813)586-4297.

LOG CABIN CLUB OF TAMPA BAY

meets each third Tuesday of the month at Ho Ho Chinois Restaurant, at 7:30 PM. FMI: Jami (813)577-0129, or Ed (813)855-0852.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Services 10:30 AM, Sundays. (813)239-1951.

OLD LESBIANS ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE

and Slightly Older Lesbians (SOL) meet on the 1st Saturday of each month from 11:30AM to 1:30PM at Morrison's in Seminole Mall. (813)443-2414.

P-FLAG

meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7PM at 5800 Nebraska. (813)961-6684.

P-FLAG SOUTH PINELLAS

meets each month on the fourth Saturday from 10 AM to Noon at the Good Samaritan Church in Pinellas Park. (813)347-2960.

POSITIVE COFFEE

Thursdays at 6 PM at the Positive Express-

sions Gallery. A social night for HIV+ people, their friends, families, and lovers. (813)384-9305.

RAINBOW TRAVEL CLUB

No fees or dues to join. Call Jim or Bob to be added to the growing mailing list of over 2000 members. (813)968-3600 or (800)881-3600.

SPIRIT OF LIFE MCC

Services at 9 AM and 11 AM Sundays. Located at 4810 Mile Stretch Drive in Holiday. (813)942-8616.

SOUTHERN COUNTRY TAMPA BAY

Country dance/social club meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month at Rascal's in Tampa. (813)884-4305 or SCTB@juno.com.

STARBURST

Transsexual and crossdresser support. Monthly. (813)523-8760.

SUN COAST LEATHER CLUB

Tampa Bay area gay levi/leather club meets 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 9:30 PM at the Golden Arrow Bar, St. Pete. Member SECC. (813)KUM-LTHR or Sncstlthr@aol.com.

SUNCOAST SISTERS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

has both a competitive and recreational division for women. (813)429-319.

SUNCOAST SOFTBALL LEAGUE

has both a competitive and recreational division. Call Jim H., (813)239-1401 or Tim Blunk, (813)237-0572.

TAMPA BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS (TBAP)

Meet Thursdays, 6:30-9:30PM at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center's Off Center Theater. Janet Stanley, (813)222-1092 or Mark Lieb, (813)985-3107.

TRI-COUNTY CITIZENS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, INC.

Meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at 7 PM at the Greenbrier Sunrise Program building located at 13406 Cortez Blvd. (SR 50), east of Mariner Blvd., in Hernando County. (352) 686-1130.

TRUE EXPRESSIONS

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VINTAGE HEIRLOOM COLLECTIONS, INC.

Weekly "Flea" Market in Palma Ceia. Sundays 8AM to ? Call Randy at (813)253-5458.

WEST FLORIDA GROWLERS

A Tampa Bay Bear Club that meets the 1st Sunday of each month at the Golden Arrow. (813)824-7810.

SARASOTA/BRADENTON AREA

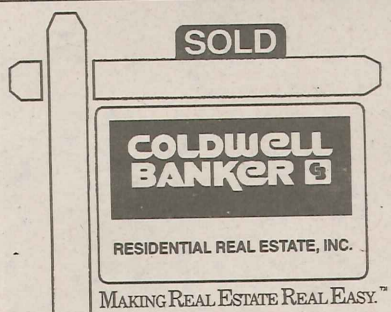
ALSO

A gathering of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth. (941)951-2576 or (941)252-2576.

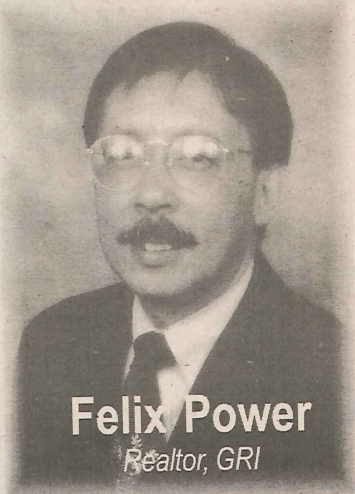
FRONT RUNNERS

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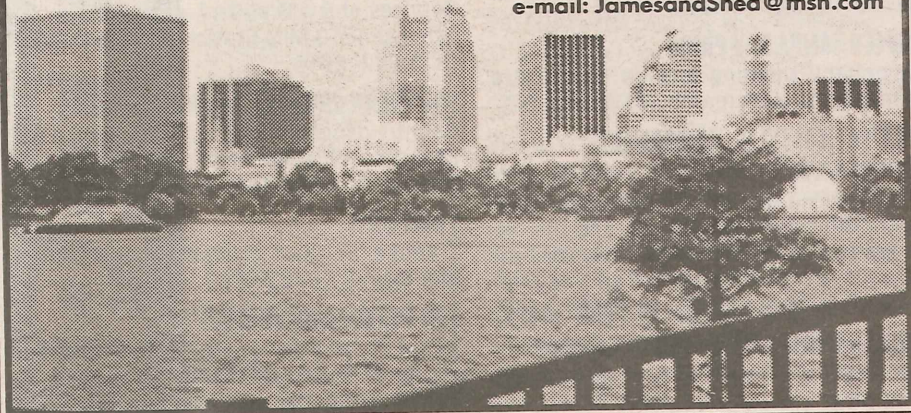
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GAY ON AOL

From Page 21

proliferation of communications packages, chat rooms, e-mail and jpeg (digital photography) downloads currently common on the internet, how true is this Orwellian vision of the future and how does it affect gay and lesbian Americans?

No one vehicle attracts more gay and lesbian computer whizzes than the venerable America On-Line (AOL). While AOL does not track numbers of their gay and lesbian members, a quick tour through the available chat rooms and information creates a clear impression of a strong and pro-gay system. Even more tellingly, AOL, responding to the trend, has begun marketing directly to the gay community.

Through its graphical user interface (GUI, which is a 90's way of saying "it looks neat"), internet access, and real-time chat rooms, the communications company has become the ubiquitous gateway onto the information superhighway. With the myriad information available, are users - particularly gay and lesbian users - enriching their lives? Or are they simply satisfying their prurient interests in the laziest, least confrontational manner possible?

An argument can be made for either, although on the surface, the latter seems to be the case. On a typical Friday evening, a question was sent to a chat room simply titled "Orlando," ostensibly a straight (or at least non-denominational) room. The response to the posed question ("What activity do you use AOL for the most?") was dynamic. Of the 45 responses received

over a two and half hour period, more than 60 percent admitted using the Internet for the chat room access, with fully half of those saying they were looking to find a sexual, or at least romantic, partner from the thousands of those on line.

Is this a harmless distraction which augments a normal social life, an alternative and safer sexual outlet, or a nefarious and potential dangerous addiction? Two stories seem to provide answers.

A Catalog of Desires

Tommy (not his real name), 31, bought his first computer in April. A veritable novice to the world of PCs, Tommy purchased the computer for assistance with school and work. Included in the PC package he purchased was a modem. While initially insisting he would not spend

huge quantities of time on the internet or in chat rooms, only four days after he purchased the equipment, he was spending an estimated three evening hours per day on line. He engaged in phone sex with people he met on line and even decided to start meeting the people he chatted with in person. The reasons for his immersion were simple.

"It's like calling up and ordering exactly what you want out of a catalog," he said. "Since you're on a computer terminal and not face to face, you can be very specific about what you're looking for. If you're a top, you can say that, where you couldn't in a bar or at the gym."

At first Tommy concentrated on the "Orlando M4M" room, filled with other Orlandoans seeking other men. His first

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*She's Out,
She's Hillarious, &
She's coming to
Daytona Beach*



ARTFUL LIVING

encounters were disappointing.

"People do lie in their profiles. One guy said he was in his mid-twenties, 6'1", 200 lbs, with a muscular, ripped body. He showed up at my door and he was at least 260, not muscular and was probably closer to late thirties."

However, for every two or three bad experiences, Tommy netted one positive one.

"I said right in my profile (on-line description accessible to all users) that if you weren't who you said you were, or didn't look like you said you looked, you were not getting in the front door. So, I only let people in who I'm attracted to. Thank god for peepholes," he said.

When asked about the risk of inviting someone you've never met or spoken to before into your home, Tommy was indifferent.

"You run a risk with someone you meet in a bar. I think you can actually get to know a person better if you talk to them on-line. And you definitely know that you are sexually compatible."

These days, Tommy spends less than one hour a day on line and still has sex with as many as three people per week that he meets on line.

"I'm a busy guy. The bars are a hassle. This is the perfect outlet for me."

As time has gone on and his comfort with the system and its options has increased, Tommy's tastes have become more esoteric. Tommy's passing interest in leather and domination fantasies has become a hallmark of his experiences.

Asked whether having such rooms available has put a finer point on his sexuality, Tommy agrees quickly.

"Knowing people are out there who feel the same way, who want the same things, has sort of pushed the envelope a little further for me. It's a huge turn-on. I think it's great!"

Sandra and Rose: A Cyber-love Story
Not all AOL experiences are quite so

prurient. Sandra Bahns is a 46 year old woman who works for a computer firm in Clearwater. She divorced her husband of 14 years in 1989 when she came out of the closet, but had difficulty meeting other women. At her age, she felt uncomfortable in bars and didn't have luck with any community services organizations. After spending an evening in 1995 at a friend's house who used AOL, she decided to give it a try herself.

"I was really at a point where I was about to accept the fact that I wasn't going to meet anyone. I can talk to people once I meet them. It was the meeting I had a problem with."

She began by purchasing AOL and poking around the various services. She surfed in and out of various lesbian-themed rooms until she felt comfortable. Since users are able to create their own chat rooms, Sandra then began creating her own room: "ClrH20Les4Friend" or Clearwater Lesbian Seeking Friendship.

After sitting alone in her chat room for a couple of hours that first night while she simultaneously downloaded information on dog breeding (her favorite hobby), someone sent her an instant message. As opposed to room messages which scroll on the screen for all to see, instant messages are direct communications from one person to another. She answered back. Soon several other

women were actually in the room with her.

"It was so wonderful to feel this sense of community from right there in my house." Two weeks after she began creating the room, a woman with the screen name "Rose4U" sent an instant message. The two began talking and

"My hands were shaking and every negative thought was running through my head. What if she is a stalker, or something? Or a gay basher?" Then, as she sat in the Appleby's in Clearwater, she saw a woman pass through the door who matched the picture she had seen on line. She stood and hugged the woman, and they

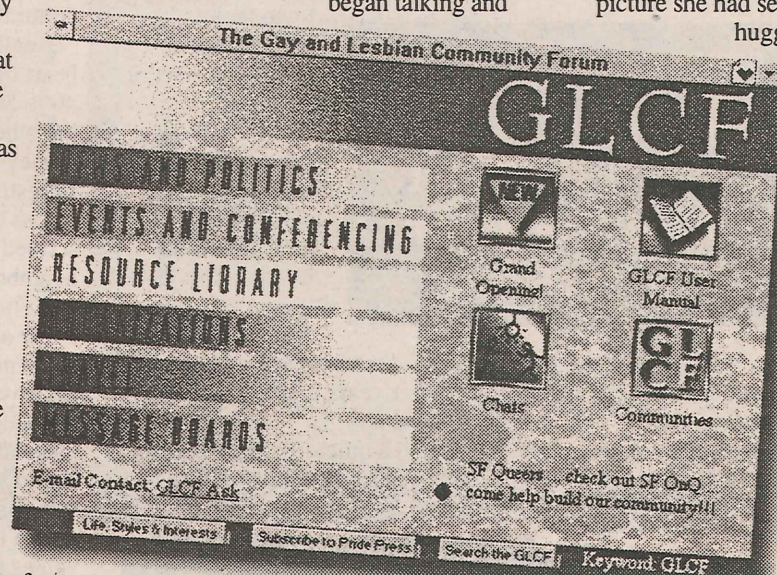
had a four-hour conversation over dinner.

"I felt at that moment that I had met my soul-mate. I hadn't thought so, even through all the conversations on line and on the phone, although I knew there was a lot of commonality. But when we finally got together and talked in person, I knew she was the one."

Sandra and Rose recently celebrated their second anniversary together. They still have

a computer, and use it to communicate with friends. But they both have found what they were looking for.

"I know our experience is atypical," Sandra said. "I hear a lot of horror stories. But it just couldn't have been a better experience for me. It changed my life." ▽



AOL's Gay and Lesbian Community Forum.

sharing their common hobbies of animals and camping. Chats grew to hours-long telephone conversations. They traded photographs on line.

Eventually, they planned an actual rendezvous.

THE BASICS OF GAY AOL

AOL costs \$19.99 per month for unlimited access. Each room allows 23 people at a time. Chat Rooms are Located under "People Connection" pages. The more specific rooms (as opposed to lobbies) are located under "Member Rooms" within those pages. A particular short hand is used in naming the rooms. For example:

M4M = Man for (seeking) Man (usually preceded by a geographic name, for example: Orlando M4M)

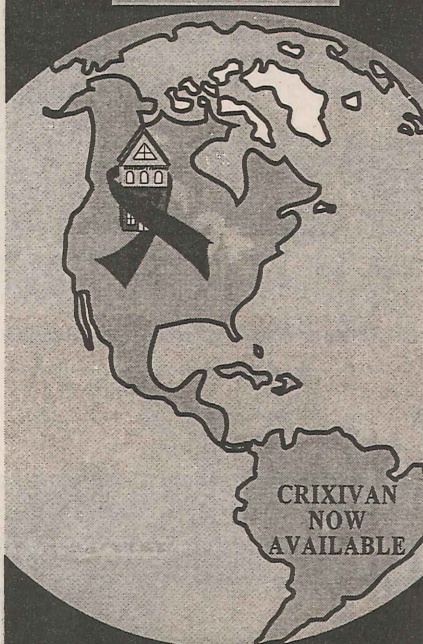
W4W = Woman for (seeking) Woman

StrWM4SubBlkM = Straight White Male Seeking Submissive Black Male

BlkGuyz4WhtGuyz = Black Guys seeking White Guys

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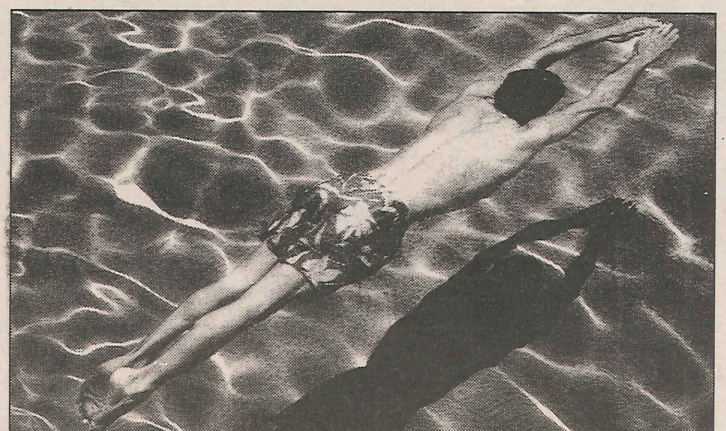
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ARTFUL LIVING

SUBURBS

From Page 21

gay clientele who request to live in the suburbs range between ten and thirty percent, according to Realtors in Orlando and Tampa.

Described by Realtors as couples looking for a quiet lifestyle, they are often professionals with or without kids who appreciate being close to malls, multiple-screen movie complexes, and large, upscale grocers.

Their presence has not gone unnoticed by other businesses, though. Several suburban bars have opened—Lil' Orphan Andie's in Rosemont, the Copper Rocket

in Winter Park/Maitland, Keith's Lounge near Carrollwood, and Northside Lounge in Seminole Heights—that either cater to or welcome gay customers. Unlike the shiny, loud clubs that pock-mark downtown districts, these pubs offer a small

town feel with darts and pool tables and a set of 'regulars.'

It is almost a cultural difference between living close to a city's downtown and living in the 'burbs. Mike

Trexler, a Realtor

in the Orlando area who moved back into downtown after years in the suburbs, described the change as a culture shock. "We lived such a quiet life. But when we renovated our place downtown, it was a

complete change. Things really bustle in the city. Friends drop by all the time—in the first two months after the move, we almost felt as if we were under assault! It was sensory overload."

Most Realtors agreed that it is a cultural difference between the lifestyles. "Usually, younger folks want to be in the heart of things, and they live downtown. 40 to 50 year old professional couples, on the other hand, want a lot of home for the money and a quiet street," said Bergstrom. His comments were echoed across the board by Realtors who described suburban life as "quiet, rural, and neighborly."

"The quieter, peaceful life is important to me and Karen. We have spent four years married and in the suburbs, and its positive qualities really came through for us," said Kerrigan. "We were looking for a pleasing space to live, and also space for Karen's home-based business. In the suburbs, we could afford the extra space, unlike in Downtown where property values are so high."

And money plays a big role for many others, too. Financially, buying in the 'burbs can be quite a bargain, and many money-conscious gays and lesbians are fully aware of it. For what a 2-bedroom, 1-bath bungalow on a quarter acre in The Heights near downtown Tampa goes for, a gay couple can buy a 4-bedroom, 3-bath home with a pool in Brandon. The same goes in Orlando.

The Tampa Bay area has seen massive growth in outlying areas such as Brandon and North Hillsborough County. Established executive family communities like Carrollwood continue to attract, even while areas closer in to town become high-profile addresses.

Metrowest in Orlando, while hardly a gay or lesbian enclave, houses many of

CENTRAL FLORIDA'S GAYEST SUBURBS

ORLANDO AREA

Celebration
Lake Mary
Metrowest
Mt. Dora
Ocoee
Tusawilla/Deer Run
Winter Park

TAMPA BAY AREA

Brandon
Carrollwood
Lutz
Palmia Cia
Seminole Heights
South Pasco County

the gay professionals of Disney and their domestic partners. Those wanting to really get away from it all move to Lake Mary or Deltona, both of which have large, albeit unseen, gay communities.

Dale Nabor, a Realtor in the Tampa Bay area, tries to accent the positive and negative aspects of living in the suburbs for his gay clients. "It has less hustle and bustle, and is far less congested than near downtown Tampa. It really is an individual taste. But I have been in this business 17 years, and it is a trend that has been pretty steady over that period of time."

While homosexuals in the suburbs is not a massive craze that will soon change the face of America, the fact is that gay men and lesbians have been living 'out' there for decades and will continue to do so, housing trends notwithstanding. ▽

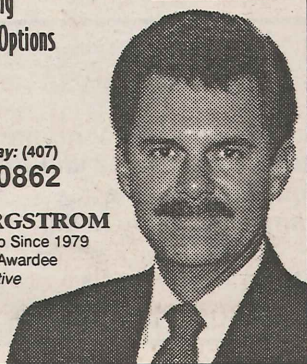
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MAGGIE KERRIGAN (standing) and partner KAREN AKERS at their Eastbrook home: "I have a positive history in the suburbs."

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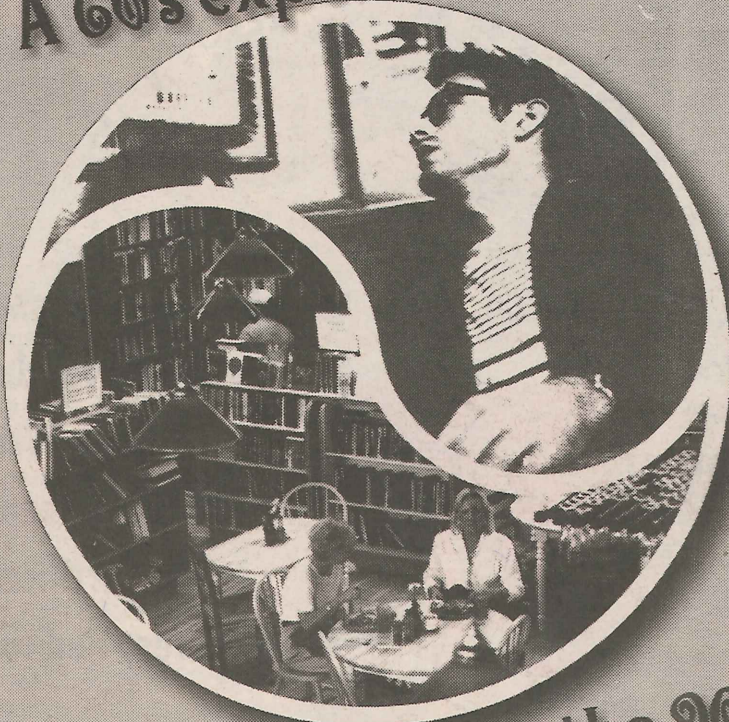
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ARTFUL LIVING

MODERN MANNERS

Studies in Etiquette with Robin Ashe

THE BARE FACTS ON BEING A GENTLEMAN IN THE NUDE

Robin, I find myself in a rather unusual situation, and I dare hope you will be familiar with my quandary. You see, I have recently taken up residence with a gentleman younger than myself by ten years. Consequently, he carries himself with the sort of bravado so easily found in today's young men. I, on the other hand, am somewhat more conservative. The difference in age has not been an issue until now; you see, he

wants to vacation at an all-nude guesthouse and I am simply terrified at the prospect. I've never done this before! Any suggestions? Should I stay home and let him enjoy himself rather than go along and cramp his style?

I am amused by the manner in which you so glibly assumed that I might be familiar with your quandary; it is with a wry smile that I admit I have, but more about that later. And you, poor fellow! In

a nutshell, it appears simply that you dread public nudity, albeit confined within the walls of a private compound. Well, I am not so concerned with that aspect of your letter as I am with the fact that you are quite ready to let your young man loose in the company of naked bodies other than your own. What *could* you be thinking? Are you so body-conscious that you will toss him into that problem-prone arena?

Listen to me and you will learn. First of all, under no circumstances encourage him to go by himself. You *are* going with him. It will take all your stamina, but you will have to convince yourself that you are, after all, ready to plunge into the nudist lifestyle. And why? To save your marriage, that's why. Robin does not like to hear about couples breaking up over trivial matters such as these.

The first thing you must do is undress completely and then go look at yourself in the mirror; I will be happy to wait... there; was that so bad? And what did you see? I will tell you; you saw somebody with whom you share a certain familiarity—yourself! And was the image offensive to you? Probably not! And do you think that same image is offensive to your lover? Not at all, or he would not have been attracted to you in the first place (as much as we try to convince ourselves that looks mean nothing in the grand scheme of things....).

The fact that he is willing to parade you in front of strangers should tell you that he is comfortable with your appearance. If he were not, he wouldn't be suggesting a nude guesthouse, now would he?

Now that we have settled that, I would like to offer a few tips on how to behave in such surroundings. I will admit that, yes, I have partaken of such a venue, though I made sure to have proper outfits for every hour of the day; just in case, because you never know when somebody you idolize is going to stop by for tea.

The thing to do is not notice that everybody is naked. Stare fixedly into people's eyes rather than at their nether regions. You may end up with eyestrain and a terrific headache

by day's end, but at least everyone will know that you're a gentlemen. Also, though boys will be boys and all hell breaks loose when a bevy of them are thrown into a swimming pool, remember that it is considered unkind to sample merchandise without a specific invitation. An inviting smile, a come-hither look, or even a display of wildly fluttering eyelashes will alert you to the fact that your poolmate is interested in being tactile. Otherwise, play nice! As well, I would like to stress the fact that, no matter how nude or how liberal a guesthouse is, one simply does not eat in the nude. Oh, I know what some of you are saying, but listen to this: a body looks best while displayed languorously on a swim raft, not crumb-covered, hunched over an outdoor breakfast table; and that wayward dab of jelly on your posterior will mark you for a fool the rest of the week.

Now, go and enjoy yourselves! And remember, it costs only \$.20 to mail a postcard, not \$.32; I will be checking my postbox, dear fellow! ▼

NO MATTER HOW NUDE OR HOW LIBERAL A GUESTHOUSE IS, ONE SIMPLY DOES NOT EAT IN THE NUDE.

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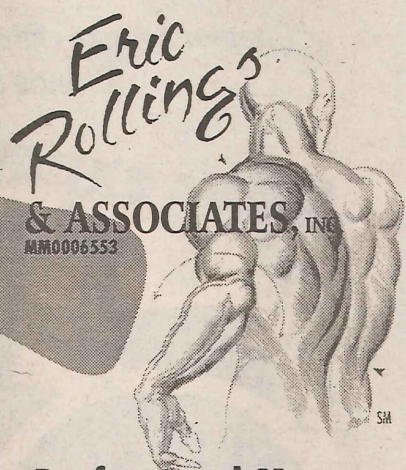


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ARTFUL LIVING

ADVICE-O-RAMA

Time Crunch Threatens Relationship

Dear Keith,

I've been seeing a wonderful woman for about four months. She came into my life quite unexpectedly, but it's clear that a relationship of some importance is developing. Whenever we get together, we laugh, we talk non-stop, and affection comes very easily. I find myself wishing we could spend more time together.

But therein lies the problem. I recently started a business—a lifelong dream of mine—and I must devote anywhere from 60 to 80 hours per week

working right now. I've invested lots of money, and this may be my best chance at the life I want to live.

On the other hand, I recognize (believe me!) that the right chemistry between two individuals is rare. I've always wanted to share my life with the right woman, and I don't want to blow this opportunity.

I don't know what to do. I can't (and don't want to) retreat from my business obligations, but I am afraid if I don't spend more time with the new woman in

my life, I'll lose her!

**Signed,
Burning the Candle at
Both Ends**

Dear Burning,

Why is that relationships tend to find us when we are not looking for them? But quality relationships are hard to find, and getting them started may be the most difficult part. It sounds like the two of you have passed that hurdle, and that should not be taken lightly. You know that neglecting this new important person in life at this critical time may prove fatal to your growing relationship.

The fact that your relationship has existed and grown for several months, despite your time limitations, indicated that a healthy foundation exists between the two of you. I sense your frustration. Your girlfriend apparently wants to build on this foundation, and may be placing some inadvertent pressure on you to do the same. You want to reciprocate, but can't due to your present work situation.

You must accept that fact that, at present and for a while, you are essentially unavailable to put the necessary time and energy into developing this relationship. Your new girl-

friend is probably equally as frustrated and may be looking for a clear statement from you that will substantiate your commitment to her, and more specifically, the future you two have together.

It is natural to look at building a life together with someone you are falling in love with. You must determine for yourself how much quality time you can find to devote to this promising relationship. Then, sit down and have an honest dialogue with your girlfriend. It is up to her to then determine whether she has the patience that will be required of her to continue to develop your relationship while you are developing your business. Hopefully, both of you will put energy into empathizing with the other's dilemma—both are legitimate—during the difficult but potentially rewarding months ahead. Good luck to the both of you.

To submit a question to Advice-O-Rama, write to Watermark, P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL, 32853, or e-mail a question to H20MrkNwz@aol.com. Watermark's Advice-O-Rama counselor is Keith Baber, M. Ed. Keith has a degree in Counseling Psychology, and is in private practice in Altamonte Springs. He can be reached at (407) 834-3279.

Transitions

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY to GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC. (GLCS) on August 25. GLCS was the first gay and lesbian organization of its kind, and despite recent problems, they're still going strong with special events and social and counseling services.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Orlando volunteer and activist **ALLENE BAUS** (8/10), Orlando psychologist **LESLIE BENNET** (8/12), *Watermark* film critic **DAVE ALMEIDA** (8/15).

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS: author **JAMES KIRKWOOD** (8/22), English author **CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD** (8/26), author **SARAH ORNE JEWETT** (9/3), chef **CRAIG CLAIBORNE** (9/4)

HISTORY: From August 28 through September 5, 1982, the first Gay Games were held in San Francisco.

"Transitions" may include memorials, remembrances, weddings, anniversaries, promotions and other announcements.

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IN REVIEW

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD
From Page 27

likened it to the Nazis in Germany. In a statement following the tape distribution, Handelman said, "It's important to keep fighting because there's a lot more at stake than just freedom of cultural expression... the strength of a fighting minority is a much greater threat to the status quo, than an image of a nude body." Ironically, while the controversy has put the NEA in jeopardy in Congress, it has sparked interest in the films. Both of them have received new

attention from the press and the public, which should help to get more theaters to show the films and more people to see them.

THE GAY U.K. CONNECTION

While America waits for *Ellen's* new life to begin, the gay experience is flourishing in British entertainment. Two recent programs on British television, and one film in production, are making news across the pond. *Queer Street* on Britain's Channel 4 gave viewers a chance to experience the lesbian phenomenon surrounding the **DINAH SHORE** golf

tournament in a story entitled "Invasion Of The Big-Haired Lesbians." Meanwhile, *Queerspotting*, also on Channel 4, showed the history of gay and lesbian images on television. As if that weren't enough, *Trainspotting* star **EWAN MCGREGOR** is doing a little queer-spotting of his own on the set of his latest film, *Velvet Goldmine*. Set in the 1970's glam-rock scene in London, *Velvet* should prove to be another interesting endeavor from director **TODD HAYNES** (*Safe, Poison*), whose last foray into the 1970's music world was the famously banned **KAREN CARPEN-**

TER quasi-documentary enacted by Barbie dolls. McGregor plays a character modeled after **IGGY POP** opposite **JOHNATHAN RHYS MEYERS** as his **DAVID BOWIE**-inspired love interest. Word from the set is that McGregor has been uncomfortable in his kissing scenes with Meyers, so it is difficult to say how much gold there will be when the *Velvet Goldmine* opens next year. ▽

Miss Paige Turner can be reached through this publication or by e-mail at paige@planetout.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I AM FAMILY in a tough spot: GWF who is homeless, jobless, penniless, trying to move to Orlando. I need your help. Have truck and tent, will travel. Have a dog (pug) and expertise in landscaping and with animals. Medical background. Willing to do trade out (lawn maintenance for roof over my head). If you have any ideas or think you can help, call (407)839-5108 and leave msg.

HELLO!! We are 2 handsome German gay boys, 26 and 29, and we are making a trip around Florida from Sept. 20 - Oct. 2. We are interested to meet some other gays, to have fun and more! Maybe we can stay for 1 or 2 nights of our trip at your home? Please contact by fax: 01149-541-22054, or send a letter: Stefan Adam, Johannistorwall 16, 49074, Osnabruck, Germany.

PIANO LESSONS Always wanted to play piano? For all ages, flexible hours. 15+ years experience. Call William Braun (407)657-1532.

MIDNITE FANTASY Browse, Match and Chat!! 18+ (407)363-9669. Use the free access code: 4092.

DRAG ON ME For TV/TS's and their admirers. Browse, Match and Chat!! 18+ (407)354-3005. Use the free access code: 4094.

FREE LIVE HOT Gay chat! ManScan, personals, more! (615)525-5060; (520)718-5858; (664)410-DICK; (702)748-7700; (213)860-0805. Only LD rates. 18+. 24 hrs.

EMPLOYMENT-OFFERED

COUNSELOR: P/T: LCSW, LMHC, or LMFT to facilitate weekly group meeting for gay/lesbian/bi/trans youth group in Sarasota/Bradenton area. (941)951-2576 FMI.

PART-TIME POSITION Healthfoods/nutrition store position available, could lead to full time. Must have outgoing personality. Be reliable, customer service oriented, health/fitness conscious. Experience helpful, straight/acting preferred. Call (407)895-6262. Olympic Health.

MALE MODELS needed for escort service. (813)303-4391.

GENERAL CONTRACTING small scale residential & commercial renovation firm is growing and needs associates. If you're experienced with sheetrock, carpentry, painting and related fields, call Bill at B.O.A.

Construction. (407)895-0491.

ADVERTISING SALES The Alternative Yellow Pages is seeking outside sales reps. Must have reliable transportation. All leads furnished. \$3000 per month guarantee. Tampa/Orlando. (407)897-2099.

WORK FOR THE BEST! Sales professionals wanted for the Tampa/St. Petersburg and Sarasota/Bradenton markets. Seeking motivated, professional, experienced sales people to work full time for the expanding market of *Watermark*. Fax resume to (407)481-2246.

YOUR OWN SCHEDULE Volusia/Brevard County P/T sales professional wanted for the growing market of *Watermark*. Seeking experienced, motivated and professional individual for advertising sales in Brevard County. Terrific opportunity! Fax resume to (407)481-2246.

EMPLOYMENT-SEEKING

I NEED 2ND JOB Bright, young, underpaid professional needs flexible part-time employment on nights and weekends. Will do almost anything legal. Experienced in various disciplines, creative, cultured. Call (407)677-6061.

Seeking legitimate daytime, part-time job (20-30 hrs.). Prefer working for a small business. Have sales background. Can work some weekends. No telemarketing or landscaping, please. Call George, (407)275-1933, leave msg.

FRIEND/RELATIONSHIP

Good-looking professional 61 y.o. GWM looking for gay friends for dining, interesting conversation, travel, Sea World, etc. (407)897-1450.

Seeking hot black male! Attractive, mature white male 5'8", 170 #. I am very submissive with black males. Friendship or hot times, call Frank. Pg (407)419-1679.

WOMEN ONLY Outstate Latin 40, interested in meeting Latin ladies 30-45 into fitness culture and traveling. Call (919)571-9718, or write P.O. Box 19155, Raleigh, NC, 27619. I'll respond.

Shoe shine?GWM looking for str/gay/bi men who want their feel and footgear serviced. Let me worship yours! (813)831-3897

GWM, 6', 165#, 46 y.o., (look 30s),

honest, sincere, non-gay lifestyle, seeks 18-35 y.o., slim, attractive, and looking for love. (813)266-4899.

HIV+ SEEKS SAME WM, 27, 5'7", 140#, Brown/blue. Into beach, camping, skating, & more. Seeks sane, fit, N/S, WM +s for friendship & companionship. POB 0842, Goldenrod, FL 32733.

I am soft, yet hard. I am yin, yet yang. I am firm, yet flexible. I am wild, I am wonderful, and I am wise. Who am I? Perhaps your next loving friend. Mail responses to "Loving Friend" at P.O. Box 533655, Orlando, FL, 32853.

MERCHANDISE

96 CHRYSLER SEBRING JXl convertible for sale. Black with camel leather and camel clothtop. 16K miles, auto 6-cylinder, loader. Must sell, moving to Boston. \$20,500. (407)846-8832.

REAL ESTATE - FOR RENT

HOUSE FOR RENT in Winter Springs. 4BR/2BA with 1 car garage. Recently remodeled, all new appliances plus W/D and large yard. \$875/mo, security deposit req. Call (407)786-0433.

SOUTH BEACH STUDIO APT. for rent. 800 Ocean Dr., upstairs over News Cafe. Full kitchen, tv/vcr/stereo. Avail. daily, weekly, and monthly rates. (407)846-8832

REAL ESTATE - FOR SALE

DELANEY PARK DRIVE For sale by owner. Principles only. Sold as is. Partially refurbished two-story old Orlando Tudor cottage. Open 8/24, 12 Noon - 5 PM. (407)898-8615. Asking \$160,000.

TAVARES MOBILE HOME 1BR mobile home W/D, roofover carport, glassed room. Located Tavare Park. Adults over 55. No pets. Price \$7,500, monthly parking \$155.50. Nice. (352)343-2612.

COLLEGE PARK CONDO Renewed 2BR condo in convenient College Park. This ground floor unit has 1 y.o. central air, almost new carpet, new electric and covered parking. Only \$59,900! Call Patrick James and David Shea, Realtors at Olde Town Brokers, Inc. (407)983-2849 or (407)981-2184.

NW AREA Meticulously maintained 3BR/2BA home. Lease/purchase available. Features screened porch, eat-in kitchen area, double garage with

open, beautiful landscaping and vaulted ceilings. Only \$81,900. Call James and Shea, Realtors at Olde Towne Brokers, Inc. (407)983-2849 or (407)981-2184.

DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT PROPERTY Triplex available in the heart of Lake Eola Heights Historic District. \$179,900. Call James and Shea, Realtors at Olde Towne Brokers, Inc. (407)983-2849 or (407)981-2184.

DOWNTOWN THORNTON PARK - 2BR/2BA Bungalow in the heart of historic district features new electric, new windows, fireplace, central vac., party deck and a lot more. To preview, call James and Shea, Realtors at Olde Towne Brokers, Inc. (407)983-2849 or (407)981-2184.

ROOMMATES

NEED A HOUSEDYKE? I need a place to live. Willing to do yard work, minor repairs, general upkeep in exchange for a room for me & dog. Help a dyke in need! Call Stacey at (407)839-5108 and leave msg.

Roommate wanted, male seeking roommate. \$300/mo incl. utilities, not phone. Smoker/non-smoker ok. Adolpho (407)354-0628 or (407)351-3600x2420.

Room for rent: share a home - \$350 monthly (incl. utilities, cable, W/D). Female, N/S, no drugs, pets. Call both #s: Nancy (407)292-6600 or (407)769-2523 (peeper).

Wanted: Roommate waterskier, boyfriend? Must be: young, smooth, slim, non-smoking, single, professional with higher education, boat, car, and like. \$500/mo. (407)877-9922.

TAN BY POOL Couple needs roommate to share 3BR home with pool + spa, close to airport, security, privacy. \$325 + 1/2 util. (407)658-8311.

FURNISHED ROOM Near Universal Studios. GWM seeks same to share 2BR/2BA condo. Private phone. No smoking, drugs, or pets. \$375/mo incl. rent, cable, and util. Call (407)354-0304. (407)354-0304.

SW ORLANDO Roommate needed for new 2BR/2BA condo. W/D, gated community, community pool. \$290/mo + 1/2 util and 1/2 phone. \$175 Dep. Must like small cats. (407)419-2471. Avail now, need roomie by Sept. 1!

Close to Southern Nights: 3BR/2BA furnished home to share with cable hook-up, private bath and private phone line. Carport parking. \$285/mo, util. incl. \$75 dep. (407)894-2668.

Liberal male senior has 3BR/2BA pool

home to share with N/S employee male. A/C, W/D, \$250/mo plus sm. deposit + 1/2 util. Steve (407)273-2532.

PHOUSE & FMS at N. OBT and Amelia. Prof. GWM, 36, seeks stable prof. same (21-40) to share newly acquired 3BR mobile home. \$300/mo. (\$75/wk) + 1/2 util. Furnished immediate occupancy for employed - only \$450. Call Dave, (407)422-5518.

EAST ORLANDO off University Blvd. GWM to share large 4BR/3 1/2 bath home with same. Furnished room with private bath available now. Call (407)678-0171 for details.

GWM will share pool home. Privacy fence/spa/screen house. All amenities. Limited smoking. \$275/mo + share util. (407)296-9937, eves.

Conway Area - Masculine WM to share 2BR/2BA condo with same. Must be responsible mature, non-smoker. \$340/mo + dep. includes all, except phone. Lv. msg. (407)380-2029.

Roommate wanted to share 2BR/2BA near 1-4/John Young. Available Aug. Prefer N/S, no drugs, professional, mature. Looking for compatibility, not just someone to pay 1/2 expenses. I am 5'9", outgoing, humorous, responsible, professional, attractive. Enjoy working out, racketball, biking, jogging, canoeing. If interested call Jeff. (407)972-6065. Serious roommate inquiries only. \$300/mo + 1/2 util.

SE ORLANDO (Curry Ford/Goldenrod Rd.) 3BR/2BA pool home with fenced yard. Roommate BR is 12x20 with double closets. Features incl. private bathroom, W/D, garage, and full house privileges. Avail 7/1. \$350 inclusive. Call George. (407)275-1933. Lv. msg.

SHARE OR RENTAL WANTED Responsible, nice, GWM, 42, newly relocated with good references. (407)426-3384.

CONWAY/CURRY FORD RD. area. GWM to share spacious 2BR/2BA, nicely furnished, lots of amenities. Must be mature, responsible, and employed. \$320/mo + 1/2 util. Call Don (407)898-3865.

NEED A ROOMIE? Find him on the Confidential Connection. 18+ (407)354-3005. Use the free access code: 4710.

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Gary Waters, L.M.T. Professional Swedish Massage. Special price through August 31: \$25 for one hour massage. MA0024290. (407)807-0092.

BAIL BONDSMAN Is your hunk in jail? You want him out, but your afraid others won't understand your lifestyle? Call Doug, coast to coast, at (813)531-6111. MA0014193. (407)763-2768.

LOU'S HANDY SERVICES Over 20 years experience. Installations, replacements, and repairs. Carpentry, drywall, painting, electrical, plumbing, sprinklers, windows, screening, wallpaper. (407)898-7179.

NASTY WINDOWS? When you need your windows and screens cleaned or replaced, call me! Extra friendly service with a personal touch. Chris at Windows Shine, serving Daytona and Orlando area. (407)741-7100.

OTHER SERVICES

HORSE BOARDING 45 minutes from Downtown Orlando (West), 90 minutes from Tampa (NE). All gay 40 acre ranch, lakefront, lots of shade. Full board or pasture, barbed wire, trailer storage. (407)263-5423.

Daddy does deep rubs in joe boxers. My table, oil, 1 hr: \$30. In, Thurs. to Sat. Days plus all evenings. Pinellas. (813)897-3414.

STALLION HANDLER Hard-muscled fitness trainer. Famous Southern horseman does you like the \$1,000,000 stallions, foot to muzzle! Workouts, grooming, rubdowns. \$60 in, \$360 travel out. (813)895-2283.

MEN BONANZA Browse, Match and Chat. 18+ (407)363-9669. Use the free access code: 4096.

STEAMY ROMANCE Record, Listen, Respond to ads FREE!! 18+(407)354-3005. Use the free access code: 4714.

TRAVEL

DAYTONA BEACH! The Coquina Inn is an upscale, sophisticated Bed and Breakfast in Daytona's historic district. Walk or bike to beach, dining, shopping and antique district. Take your senses on holiday and relax in our secluded garden spa. \$80 - \$110 included full gourmet breakfast. Color brochure. (800)805-7533.

COUNTRY RETREAT 60 miles north of Tampa and west of Orlando. Monthly workshops, bed/breakfast, body care. Nevin: Box 161, Nobleton, FL 34661 or (352)568-3276.

TO PLACE AN AD:

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Ads must be submitted by 5pm Wednesday, the week prior to publication, to appear in the following week's issue.

AD POLICY: Watermark reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Watermark publication standards. No refunds for early cancellation.

MISPRINTS: Watermark is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

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